

**MAYO
CLINIC**





Commencement Program

Class of 2026

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

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MAYO CLINIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

The Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science is comprised of five schools:

- Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
- Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development
- Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
- Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences

Academic degrees are granted by the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the deans and the faculty of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. The faculty is drawn from the clinical and scientific staff of Mayo Clinic and is augmented by area physicians. Faculty members participating in this graduation ceremony represent a total faculty of approximately 3,700.

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- 60 Doctor of Medicine Graduates
- 62 Farewell and Thank You from MCASOM

Awards

- 64 Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Awards
 - Dean's Recognition Award*
 - Dean's Administrative Recognition Award*
 - Teacher of the Year Award*
 - Outstanding Mentor Award*
- 70 Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Awards
 - Dean's Recognition Award*
 - Dean's Distinguished Service Award*
 - Dean's Teacher Award*
 - Teaching Excellence Award*
 - Teacher of the Year Award*
 - Golden Stethoscope Award*
 - Mayo Brothers Award*
- 84 National, Regional and State Awards

Pledge

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Mayo Clinic Alumni Association

- 88 Congratulations and Welcome

Message from Mayo Clinic's President and CEO

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees, congratulations on reaching this long-awaited and worked-for milestone. Your discipline, sacrifice, resilience, and unwavering commitment to a calling rooted in service have brought you to this moment and will certainly define your impact going forward.

During your time at Mayo Clinic, you have been shaped not only by exceptional training but by our primary value: the needs of the patient come first. It is our hope and expectation that this fundamental value will guide you as you care for patients, pursue research, and help lead the transformation of healthcare over the next several decades.

You enter your careers at a time of both profound change and opportunity. As Mayo-trained physicians and scientists, you are very well prepared to advance new models of care, accelerate innovation, and discover more cures for patients — work that will require your courage, your curiosity, and your willingness to challenge what is possible today to create something better tomorrow. At Mayo Clinic, it is the integration of Practice, Research, and Education that makes this possible — so as your career evolves, continue to learn, to question, and to push boundaries, embracing lifelong learning as the catalyst for discovery and progress.

The future of healthcare is in your capable hands, graduates. As you begin this next phase, may you carry forward both the knowledge and the values you have learned through your time at Mayo Clinic — all for the good of patients.

Best wishes,



Gianrico Farrugia, M.D.
President and CEO





Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

The mission of the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is to develop the next generation of leaders in biomedical science and education. First established in 1915, Mayo's graduate degrees were initially awarded in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences became an independent degree-granting institution in 1983. Since then, our world-renowned faculty have worked within Mayo Clinic's unique three-shield environment of Practice, Education and Research to recruit, empower and nurture future scientists (Ph.D. and M.S.) and physician-scientists (M.D.-M.S. and M.D.-Ph.D.) to explore the world and innovate in order to rapidly develop cures and solutions that solve unmet healthcare needs. Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is also committed to creating a diverse workforce that is prepared to improve health equity through discovery and innovation.

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences has also been a vital part of the expansion of Mayo Clinic's Education Shield into a three-site institution — from the original site in Rochester, Minnesota, to major graduate training in Jacksonville, Florida, and both Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona. This novel configuration has demonstrated both the global reach and substantive local impact at each campus.

This commencement articulates the critical nature of fundamental research in addressing major societal needs. Each of these class of 2026 graduates represents cutting-edge technology, innovations in healthcare delivery, public policy, regulatory science and new methods to make innovations more broadly available across the world through entrepreneurship, partnerships and novel ventures.

LEADERSHIP

Dean

Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D.

Associate Deans

Nhan L. Tran, Ph.D., Arizona

Evette S. Radisky, Ph.D., Florida

Administrator

Karen S. Nation, MBA/HCM

Managers

Kristen J. Krueger, M.A., Arizona

Caitlyn J. Gillen, M.S., Florida

Rachel L. Halsrud, M.B.A., Minnesota



Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine matriculated its first class in 1972. For over 50 years, a world-class faculty has educated aspiring physicians in Mayo Clinic's unsurpassed model of team-based, patient-centered care. Our faculty work with students to develop the skills to be highly successful care providers as well as the compassionate hearts and inquisitive minds that change lives and innovate healthcare for generations to come.

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine holds the distinction of being one national medical school with three unique campuses — the original campus in Rochester, Minnesota; a four-year campus at Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona; and a third- and fourth-year program on Mayo Clinic's Jacksonville, Florida, campus. Our novel school configuration provides our students with a depth and breadth of learning experiences unlike any other institution.

We are proud that Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine is a top-ranked medical school with a stellar national and international reputation. Our integrated approach to clinical and research training instills in our students an unrelenting quest to find and apply medical answers where none have been found before. We are constantly innovating our curriculum so our students will be prepared to handle the challenges of the nation's evolving healthcare environment.

Selected from 5,067 applicants, the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine class of 2026 consists of 101 graduates. The class of 2026 will be part of the prestigious alumni of Mayo Clinic.

LEADERSHIP

Dean

Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.

Vice Deans

Jewel M. Kling, M.D., M.P.H., Arizona

Abba C. Zubair, M.D., Ph.D., Florida

Administrator

Brenda L. Sloan, M.B.A.

Directors of Education Operations

Melissa M. Lindsey, M.A.

Mary E. Stevens, M.H.S.

Managers

Kevin W. Price-Majors, M.B.A.

Mar E. Sayo, M.B.A.

Aliasha B. Bechly, M.S., PMP

JAY ALIX

In 2018, Mayo Clinic received a \$200 million gift from Mr. Jay Alix, noted philanthropist of Birmingham, Michigan. The endowment gift, the largest ever to Mayo Clinic, was designated for Mayo Clinic School of Medicine to expand scholarship opportunities and further innovation in the school's curriculum. In appreciation of his generous gift, the school is now known as Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine across all three campuses.

Jay is the founder of AlixPartners, the global advisory firm and industry standard for providing comprehensive transformation solutions for companies "when it really matters," involving complex corporate turnarounds as well as operating, financial, legal, restructuring and investigation challenges. Sought out by corporate and government leaders alike, Jay has led and advised on some of the largest and most complex restructurings and turnarounds of the past five decades, including leading the creation, design and implementation of the highly successful restructuring and turnaround plan to bring General Motors in and out of bankruptcy in just 40 days. Today, he serves AlixPartners as an active board member and mentor to AlixPartners' leaders.

In addition to his past turnaround work and private equity investment experience, Jay has lectured widely, written many articles on turnaround management, co-authored two books on the financial issues facing companies in reorganization, and delivered many keynote speeches on various topics, including corporate transformations, turnarounds and the corporate revitalization process.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton appointed Jay to the National Bankruptcy Review Commission. He served as a strategic advisor to Dennis Archer, former mayor of Detroit. The Turnaround Management Association presented Jay with the Chairman's Award in recognition of his "pioneering leadership role" in helping to create and build the turnaround industry. The Japanese Association for Turnaround Professionals honored him as its Inaugural Foreign Member. He received the Harvey R. Miller Outstanding Achievement Award for Service to the Restructuring Industry. Jay was awarded Wayne State University's Michigan Executive of the Year award. He also received the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement from Emory Law School's *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.



For more than a decade, Jay has focused on protecting the U.S. bankruptcy system, as well as on many creative and pro bono advisory activities, including producing six Tony-winning Broadway musicals and plays, award-winning documentary films and Grammy-nominated music. He actively helped lead the restructuring of the Detroit Public School System and assisted the Norman Rockwell Museum in advancing its mission nationally and internationally. Jay was also a lead donor funding the building of a state-of-the-art indoor track and field facility at the University of Pennsylvania. He continues to donate his time and resources to projects he cares deeply about through the Alix Foundation.

Jay completed the Young Presidents' Organization/Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. He holds an M.B.A. degree in accounting from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He began his career as a CPA with PriceWaterhouseCoopers in New York.

2026 Commencement Speaker

FREDRIC B. MEYER, M.D.

Fredric B. Meyer, M.D., is the former executive dean of Education of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science and former dean of the highly ranked Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. He is also currently the distinguished Alfred Uihlein Family Professor of Neurologic Surgery, former enterprise chair of Neurological Surgery, and executive director emeritus of the American Board of Neurological Surgery.

As leader of the Education Shield from 2016 to 2026, Dr. Meyer championed academic excellence and innovation to advance Mayo Clinic's educational mission. Under his leadership, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine was consistently ranked as a Tier 1 Best Medical School for Research by U.S. News & World Report; expanded its national footprint and curriculum through digital health and simulation-based learning; and advanced physician-scientist training. He also helped lead key initiatives, such as redesigning the Mitchell Building and developing the Integrated Education and Research Building to create more student-centered learning environments. In addition, Dr. Meyer oversaw historic Bold. Forward. philanthropic investments during his tenure, including the transformative \$200 million gift from Jay Alix to name the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine; a \$10 million gift to launch the Mayo Clinic Harper Family Foundation Artificial Intelligence Education in Medicine Program — advancing AI education for staff, students and trainees; a \$5 million gift to accelerate AI education and establish the Richard M. Schulze Innovation Awards in Artificial Intelligence — recognizing excellence in AI-driven innovation; and a variety of other benefactor gifts to advance Mayo Education, support student scholarships and build diversity outreach educational programs.

During his career, Dr. Meyer has won a variety of awards, including the College of Neurological Surgeons Resident Award in 1984, the Honorable Mention Menninger Award in 1985, the Charles Elsberg Award in 1987, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Faculty Research Award in 1989, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Boston University in 2000, the Medical Student Teaching award in 2025, the Distinguished



Service Award from the American Board of Neurological Surgeons in 2025, and has been a visiting professor and honored guest at over 200 institutions and societies. He has published over 425 articles in medical and scientific journals, and for many years, he directed an NIH-funded research laboratory focused on stroke and epilepsy.

Dr. Meyer has an active clinical practice and performs over 275 major cases each year focused on brain tumors, pituitary, vascular pathologies, trigeminal neuralgia and hydrocephalus. His emphasis on resident education is evidenced by having received the Resident Teacher of the Year award numerous times and the prestigious Mayo Clinic Distinguished Educator Award.

“The glory of medicine is that it is constantly moving forward, that there is always more to learn.”

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D.

Minnesota Class of 2026

May 9, 2026

**Mayo Civic Center
Rochester, Minnesota**



Minnesota Commencement Program

MAY 9, 2026

Processional	Bagpipers Platform Participants Faculty Representatives Graduates
Welcome from the Executive Dean	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
Remarks by the President and CEO, Mayo Clinic	Gianrico Farrugia, M.D.
Commencement Address	Fredric B. Meyer, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (MCGSBS) Dean's Remarks and Awards	Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D.
MCGSBS Student Address	Megan Lea Ritting
Conferring of Ph.D. and Master's Degrees	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D. Arjun P. Athreya, Ph.D., M.S. J. Luis Lujan, Ph.D., M.S. Autumn J. Schulze, Ph.D. Matthew W. Urban, Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine (MCASOM) Dean's Remarks and Awards	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
MCASOM Student Address	Stephen Lewis Harvey
Conferring of Medical Degrees	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. Jeremy K. Cutsforth-Gregory, M.D. Torrey A. Laack, M.D. Lisa A. Schimmenti, M.D. Megha M. Tollefson, M.D.
Reading of the Physician's Pledge	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. All M.D. Attendees and Graduates
Concluding Remarks	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
Recessional	

Please join us after the recessional for a reception in the West and South Ballroom Lobbies.

Minnesota Platform Participants

In order of appearance

NNEKA I. COMFERE, M.D.

Juanita Kious Waugh Executive Dean of Education,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

Dean, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Professor of Dermatology;

Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

GIANRICO FARRUGIA, M.D.

President and CEO, Mayo Clinic

Professor of Medicine;

Professor of Physiology,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

FREDRIC B. MEYER, M.D.

Commencement Speaker

Alfred Uihlein Family Professor of Neurologic Surgery,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

LEIGH G. GRIFFITHS, MRCVS, PH.D.

Dean, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Professor of Medicine,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

MEGAN LEA RITTING

Student Speaker,

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

ARJUN P. ATHREYA, PH.D., M.S.

Associate Dean of Faculty Development,

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Associate Professor of Pharmacology;

Associate Professor of Psychiatry,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

J. LUIS LUJAN, PH.D., M.S.

Associate Dean of Student Affairs,

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery;

Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

AUTUMN J. SCHULZE, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

MATTHEW W. URBAN, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

Professor of Radiology,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

STEPHEN LEWIS HARVEY

Student Speaker,

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

JEREMY K. CUTSFORTH-GREGORY, M.D.

Assistant Dean of Career Advising,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Associate Professor of Neurology,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

TORREY A. LAACK, M.D.

Assistant Dean for Curriculum,

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

LISA A. SCHIMMENTI, M.D.

Medical Scientist Training Program Co-Director,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences;

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Professor of Pediatrics,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

MEGHA M. TOLLEFSON, M.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Admissions,

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Professor of Dermatology;

Professor of Pediatrics,

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

“Within its walls, all classes of people, the poor as well as the rich, without regard to color or creed, shall be cared for without discrimination.”

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D.

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy

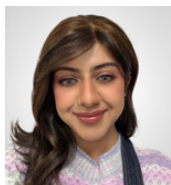


SHAHEEDA A. ADUSEI

B.S., Biomedical Engineering
Kwame Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology
Kumasi, Ashanti Region, Ghana

M.S., Biomedical Engineering
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
Advancing Non-Contrast Ultrasound
Microflow Imaging for Choroidal
Tumor Assessment in Patients
(Advisor: Mostafa Fatemi, Ph.D.)



FATIMAH AL KHAZAL

B.S., Biological Sciences
University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN

**Ph.D., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Synthetic Lethal Screening for
Genetic Vulnerabilities in A
Succinate Dehydrogenase-Loss
Model of Paraganglioma
(Advisor: Jim Maher, Ph.D.)



MONIQUE SIMONE BAGWELL

B.S., Biochemistry
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics**
Development of A Cardiac Liquid
Biopsy Utilizing an Extracellular
Vesicles Platform
(Advisor: Atta Behfar, M.D., Ph.D.)

Research Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Department of Cardiology
Rochester, MN



SAHEJ BAINS*

B.S., Biology
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics**
Suppression-Replacement Gene
Therapy for Long QT Syndrome
(Advisor: Michael J. Ackerman, M.D.,
Ph.D.)

**Internal Medicine Resident;
Physician-Scientist Training Program**
MGB Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA

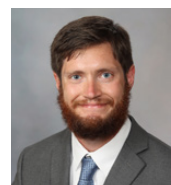


ABHIJEET SINGH BARATH

M.B.B.S.
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

Ph.D., Neuroscience
Roles and Mechanisms of Microglial
Volume Regulated Anion Channel
(VRAC) and Voltage-Gated Proton
Channel (HV1) in Seizures
(Advisors: Gregory A. Worrell, M.D.,
Ph.D.; Long-Jun Wu, Ph.D.)

Neurology Resident
Yale New Haven Hospital
New Haven, CT



CHARLES B. CAPRON

B.S., Electrical Engineering
University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN

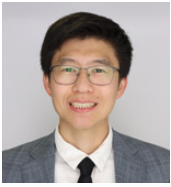
B.A., Physics
University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
Wave Propagation in Blood Vessels:
Theory and Measurement
(Advisor: Matthew W. Urban, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Department of Radiology
Rochester, MN

*Denotes M.D.-Ph.D. dual degree program

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy



JUSTIN JAEMIN CHOE*

B.S., Bioengineering
University of California
Berkeley, CA

Ph.D., Immunology
Investigation of the Therapeutic
Potential of ST8Sia6 in Diabetes
(Advisor: Virginia M. Shapiro, Ph.D.)

**Internal Medicine Resident;
Clinical Research Investigator**
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN



SHAWNA A. COOPER

B.S.; M.S., Biology
Truman State University
Kirksville, MO

M.S., Biomedical Sciences
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of
Biomedical Sciences
Rochester, MN

**Ph.D., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Multiomic Analysis of Immune
Dysfunction in Liver Injury
(Advisor: Vijay Shah, M.D.)

Research Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Department of Gastroenterology
Rochester, MN



SYDNEY BERNICE CROTTS

B.A., Neuroscience
Boston University
Boston, MA

Ph.D., Immunology
The Role of St8sia6 in Small
Bowel Immune Homeostasis
and Inflammation
(Advisor: Virginia M. Shapiro, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow
University of Minnesota
Center for Immunology
Minneapolis, MN



THOMAS EKSTROM

B.S., Health Science
University of Minnesota
Rochester, MN

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics**
Transcriptional and Epigenetic
Mechanisms Regulate Cell
Identity and Essential Genes in
Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
and Oncogenic Signatures in
Neuroblastoma
(Advisor: Steven A. Johnsen, Ph.D.)

Fellow
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Department of Molecular Oncology
Boston, MA



AHMED USSAMA FAYYAZ

M.B.B.S.
Nishtar Medical College
Multan, Pakistan

**Ph.D., Clinical and
Translational Science**
Pulmonary Vascular Remodeling in
Pulmonary Hypertension Associated
with Left Heart Disease
(Advisor: Margaret M. Redfield, M.D.)

Research Scientist
Mayo Clinic
Department of
Cardiovascular Medicine
Rochester, MN



RAMIN GARMANY*

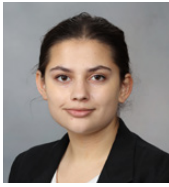
B.S., Biological Sciences
Marshall University
Huntington, WV

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics**
A Multi-Omics Characterization
of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:
A Roadmap to Novel Therapeutic
Strategies (Advisor: Michael J.
Ackerman, M.D., Ph.D.)

**Internal Medicine Resident;
Clinical Research Investigator**
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
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*Denotes M.D.-Ph.D. dual degree program

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy



EMILY THERESSE GHOSE

B.S., Biochemistry
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics**
The Development and Application
of Computational Methods for
Improving Breast Cancer Outcomes
(Advisor: Krishna R. Kalari, Ph.D.)



DANIEL GIBBARD

**B.S., Molecular, Cell and
Developmental Biology**
University of California
Santa Cruz, CA

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics**
From Emergence to Engraftment:
Membrane Tension-Mediated
Regulation of Alveolar Epithelial
Differentiation and the Mechanisms
of AT2 Cell Engraftment (Advisor:
Douglas G. Brownfield, Ph.D.)



ABHINAV GOYAL*

B.S., Biomedical Engineering
Columbia University
New York, NY

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
Wired for Understanding:
Signal Processing, Voltammetry,
and Artificial Intelligence in
Neuropsychiatric Research
(Advisor: Kendall H. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.)

Anesthesiology Resident
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN



MATTHEW CURTIS GUTTORMSON

B.A., Biology
Luther College
Decorah, IA

Ph.D., Immunology
Utilizing TNF and IFN-Gamma for
Paracrine Killing By T Cells with
Target Discrimination Programmed
by Pathogen-Derived Factors
(Advisor: Adrian T. Ting, Ph.D.)



WILLIAM HERBERT

B.S., Bioengineering
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
A Critical Analysis of Monotherapy
Cancer Drug-Blind Response
Prediction (Advisor: Marina R.
Walther-Antonio, Ph.D.)

Fellow
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI



MICHELLE ALEXANDRIA HSU

**B.S., Biochemistry and
Cellular Biology**
University of California
La Jolla, CA

Ph.D., Immunology
Antibody-Mediated Disruption
of PD-L1 and CMTM6 Interactions
in Myeloid Cells Enhances Immune
Activation to Promote Antitumor
Responses (Advisor: Haidong
Dong, M.D., Ph.D.)

Research Fellow
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*Denotes M.D.-Ph.D. dual degree program

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy



HUAIZHI HUANG

**B.S., Neuroscience;
Physiological Science**
University of California
Los Angeles, CA

Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

Systematic Characterization of
Missense Variants of Uncertain
Significance (VUS) in Cancer
Predisposition Genes
(Advisor: Fergus J. Couch, Ph.D.)

Scholar

Stanford University
Department of Genetics
Stanford, CA



YETONG HUANG

B.S., Biological Science
Wuhan University
Wuhan, Hubei, China

Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Lysine Succinylation and
Fatty Acid Metabolism in
Tumor and CAR-T Cells
(Advisor: Taro Hitosugi, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mayo Clinic
Department of Oncology
Rochester, MN



JAMES WILLIAM JENKINS

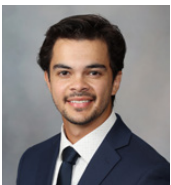
B.S., Biology
Davidson College
Davidson, NC

Ph.D., Immunology

Generating Protective Cancer
Immunity by Allowing Nature
to Lead the Way
(Advisors: Larry R. Pease, Ph.D.;
Aaron J. Johnson, Ph.D.)

Researcher

Karolinska Institutet
Solna, Sweden



BENJAMIN LUKE KENDALL

**B.A., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Carroll College
Helena, MT

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy

Immune-dominant Antiviral T Cell
Responses Outcompete
Immuno-Subdominant Antitumor
Responses to Reduce the Efficacy
of Oncolytic Viroimmunotherapy
(Advisor: Richard G. Vile, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

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EMILY E. KLATT

B.S., Molecular Biology
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, ND

Ph.D., Immunology

The Role of Treg-Dependent IL-6R
Signaling in the Intestinal Epithelium
(Advisor: William A. Faubion Jr., M.D.)



JAKE ASHTON KLOEBER*

B.S., Biochemistry
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

Understanding Molecular
Mechanisms Regulating Genome
Stability in Cancer
(Advisor: Zhenkun Lou, Ph.D.)

Preliminary Medicine Resident

Creighton University
School of Medicine
Phoenix, AZ

Radiation Oncology Resident

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
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*Denotes M.D.-Ph.D. dual degree program

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy



CATHERINE G. (KIT) KNIER*

H.B.S., Biomedical Sciences
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI

Ph.D., Clinical and Translational Science

Promoting Student Social and
Emotional Well-being in the
Community (Advisors: Anthony J.
Windebank, M.D.; Christopher K.
Pierret, Ph.D.)

Internal Medicine Resident

Aurora Health Care/ASMC
Milwaukee, WI



VANESSA LYNN KRONZER

B.A., Mathematics;
B.A., Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN

M.D.

Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Ph.D., Clinical and Translational Science

Identifying the Strongest Gene-
Respiratory Disease Interactions for
Rheumatoid Arthritis Risk
(Advisor: Cynthia S. Crowson, Ph.D.)

Rheumatologist

Mayo Clinic
Department of Rheumatology
Rochester, MN



ZHIMING MAO

B.S., Biological Sciences
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
Suzhou, Jiangsu, China

M.S., Molecular Microbiology and Immunology

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health
Baltimore, MD

Ph.D., Immunology

PD-1 Regulates Latent Effector
Differentiation of Thymic
Cytotoxic CD8+ T Cells for
Peripheral Tumor Immunity
(Advisor: Haidong Dong, M.D., Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

University of Minnesota
Department of Laboratory
Medicine and Pathology
Minneapolis, MN



ERIN B. MCGLINCH

B.A., Biology
College of Saint Benedict
St. Joseph, MN

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy

Gene Therapy for the Treatment
of Osseous Nonunions
(Advisor: Christopher H. Evans, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mayo Clinic
Department of Orthopedics
Rochester, MN



ZINNARKY KIANI ORTIZ CORREA

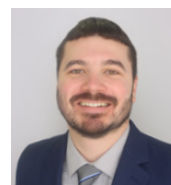
B.S., Molecular and Cellular Biology
University of Puerto Rico
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Ph.D., Clinical and Translational Science

The Role of Senescence-Associated
Inflammation in Age-Related
Skeletal Muscle Decline
(Advisor: Ian R. Lanza, Ph.D.)

Student

University of Puerto Rico
School of Medicine
M.D.-Ph.D. Program
San Juan, Puerto Rico



BRIAN JOSEPH PARRETT

B.S., Biotechnology
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy

Development of Molecular Therapies
for Alport Syndrome and Insights
into Vector Delivery and Tropism for
the Treatment of Kidney Disease
(Advisor: Michael A. Barry, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mayo Clinic
Department of Infectious Diseases
Rochester, MN

*Denotes M.D.-Ph.D. dual degree program

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy



MEGAN LEA RITTING

B.S., Biomedical Engineering
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, NY

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics**
Fallopian Tube Cell States and
Lineage Differentiation in Ovarian
Cancer Risk (Advisor: Nagarajan
Kannan, Ph.D., M.S.)

Research Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Department of Oncology
Rochester, MN



KRISTEN M. SCHEITLER

B.S., Finance
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

M.D.
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO

**Ph.D., Clinical and
Translational Science**
Development and Validation of
Neural Engineering Technology for
Swine and Human Image-Guided
Stereotactic Neurosurgery
(Advisor: Kendall H. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.)

Neurologic Surgery Resident
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN



CARLI M. STEWART

B.S., Biomedical Engineering
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

**Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology
and Experimental Therapeutics**
Investigating IL-4 as an Intrinsic
Regulator of CAR-T Cell Dysfunction
(Advisor: Saad J. Kenderian, M.B., Ch.B.)

Research Fellow
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Department of Pathology and
Laboratory Medicine
Philadelphia, PA



VAILLE ALENA SWENSON

A.S., Software Development
Dakota State University
Madison, SD

B.S., Biology
Dakota State University
Madison, SD

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy
Mechanistic Insights into the Life
Cycle of a Tickborne Orthomyxovirus
(Advisor: Michael A. Barry, Ph.D.)

Principal Research Technologist
Mayo Clinic
Department of Laboratory
Medicine and Pathology
Rochester, MN



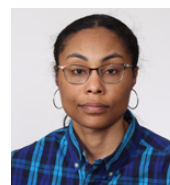
BROOKE ROCHELLE TADER

B.S., Biology; Chemistry
Bemidji State University
Bemidji, MN

M.S., Biology
Bemidji State University
Bemidji, MN

**Ph.D., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Nuclear VAV1 Increases GLI1-
Dependent Transcription in
Pancreatic Cancer Cells (Advisor:
Martin E. Fernandez-Zapico, M.D.)

Assistant Professor of Biology
Southwest Minnesota
State University
Department of Science
Marshall, MN



LYDIA PATRICE WHEELER

**A.B., Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology**
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

M.D.
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Rochester, MN

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
Enhancing Seizure Recognition and
Epilepsy Care Through Advanced
Detection Modalities and Integrated,
Patient-Centered Digital Health
Technologies (Advisor: Gregory A.
Worrell, M.D., Ph.D.)

Minnesota Doctor of Philosophy



BENJAMIN G. WOOD

B.S., Chemistry
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
Doppler Ultrasound Detectable
Biopsy Markers: Development and
Mechanistic Understanding of
Signal Origins (Advisor: Matthew W.
Urban, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Department of Radiology
Rochester, MN



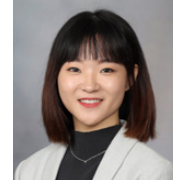
XI YU

B.S., Biomedical Engineering
Tufts University
Boston, MA

M.S.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

**Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering
and Physiology**
The Utility of NODDI in Observing
Brain Changes in Healthy Aging,
Alzheimer's Disease, and Chronic
Medical Conditions
(Advisor: Prashanthi Vemuri, Ph.D.)

Medical Student
University of California
Irvine, CA



KUN YUN

B.S., Biology
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL

M.S., Biotechnology
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy
Improving CAR-T Cell Therapy
through Modulation of Myeloid Cells
and T Cell Fitness (Advisor: Saad J.
Kenderian, M.B., Ch.B.)

Researcher
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA



BRADY NICKOLAS ZELL

B.S., Health Sciences
University of Minnesota
Rochester, MN

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy
Refined Minigenome Approaches
for Investigating Ebola Virus Mouse
Adaptation and Immune Antagonism
(Advisor: Michael A. Barry, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Minnesota Master in Biomedical Sciences



GABOR BAGAMERI

M.D.
Semmelweis University
Budapest, Hungary

**M.S., Clinical and
Translational Sciences**
Beyond the Ascending Aorta:
Segmental Associations with
Type A Acute Aortic Syndromes
(Advisor: Alex K. Bratt, M.D.)

Consultant
Mayo Clinic
Department of
Cardiovascular Surgery
Rochester, MN



MOHAMED S. BALOUL

M.B.B.S.
University of Khartoum
Khartoum, Sudan

**M.S., Artificial Intelligence
in Healthcare**
Automated Wound Segmentation
of Surgical Site Infections
(Advisor: Mariela Rivera, M.D.)

Research Associate
Mayo Clinic
Department of Surgery
Rochester, MN



SPYRIDON BASOURAKOS

M.D.
University of Ioannina
Ioannina, Greece

**M.S., Clinical and
Translational Sciences**
The Role of GATA2 as a Promoter of
Prostatic Malignant Transformation
(Advisor: Josep M. Domingo
Domenech, M.D., Ph.D.)

Assistant Professor of Urology
University Hospitals –
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH



CAMDEN DABY

B.S., Health Sciences
University of Minnesota
Rochester, MN

**M.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
HDR Genome Engineering
Advancements Using CRISPR-
Based Techniques
(Advisor: Laura M. Rogers, Ph.D.)

Senior Research Technician
Mayo Clinic
Department of Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology
Rochester, MN



JAERAE JUANYEA PATRICK DELL

B.S., Biology
Oakwood University
Huntsville, AL

D.D.S.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

M.S., Dentistry
The Impact of Premolar Extraction
on Oral Cavity Dimension and
Obstructive Sleep Apnea
(Advisor: Subha Giri, B.D.S., M.S.)

Orthodontist
Private Practice
Toronto, Canada



SAAM DILMAGHANI

B.A., Neuroscience; Anthropology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

M.P.H.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

M.D.
Georgetown University
School of Medicine
Washington, DC

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences
Pathophysiologic, Diagnostic, and
Management Considerations in Bile
Acid Diarrhea and Irritable Bowel
Syndrome (Advisor: Michael
Camilleri, M.D., D.Sc.)

Gastroenterologist
MNGI Digestive Health
St. Paul, MN

Minnesota Master in Biomedical Sciences



EVAN WILLIAM DRAPER

Pharm.D.

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

M.S., Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Methodology for Detecting Major Bleeding and Thrombotic Events in the Electronic Health Record among Patients on Anticoagulation (Advisor: Robert D. McBane, M.D.)

Medication Management Informaticist

Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN



CATALINA GALVAN

B.S., Biology

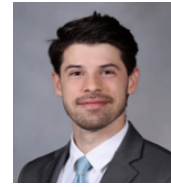
University of Texas
Austin, TX

M.S., Virology and Gene Therapy

Glycosylation as a Strategic Mechanism for Measles Virus and Mumps Virus Immune Evasion (Advisor: Richard B. Kennedy, Ph.D.)

Research Associate

Imanis Life Sciences
Rochester, MN



BENJAMIN GILBERT GORMAN

B.A., Clinical Psychology

Tufts University
Somerville, MA

M.D.

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Rochester, MN

M.S., Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Detection of Myocardial Scar from Electrocardiogram Data Using a Novel 1D Reconstruction Model Convolutional Neural Network. (Advisor: Timothy L. Kline, Ph.D., M.S.)

Anesthesiology Resident

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
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LAINEY GREY GROVE

B.A., Cognitive Science; Behavioral Biology

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

M.D.

Hackensack Meridian
School of Medicine
Clifton, NJ

M.S., Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Redefining the Lifelong Natural History of Hip Osteoarthritis in Patients with Morphologic Abnormalities (Advisor: Cody C. Wyles, M.D.)

Orthopedic Surgery Resident

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN



RITA IGWILO-ALANEME

M.B.B.S.

University of Nigeria
Enugu, Nigeria

M.S., Clinical and

Translational Sciences

Microbiologically Confirmed Tissue Expander and Breast Implant Infections: Evaluating Risk Factors for Recurrence and Optimal Treatment Strategies. (Advisor: Adi S. Shah, M.B.B.S.)

Infectious Diseases Resident

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN



MARK W. KACZOR

B.A., Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry

Yale University
New Haven, CT

M.D.

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Rochester, MN

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Housing-Based Socioeconomic Status and Its Association with Infant Mortality and Mental, Behavioral, and Developmental Outcomes (Advisor: William A. Carey, M.D.)

Consultant

Mayo Clinic
Neonatal Medicine
Rochester, MN

Minnesota Master in Biomedical Sciences



UNA KARANOVIC

B.S., Biology

University of Nevada
Las Vegas, NV

M.S., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Real-Time Recording of Tonic
Dopamine in a Schizophrenic
Rat Model (Advisor: Kendall H.
Lee, M.D., Ph.D.)



SHAHID KARIM

M.B.B.S.

University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom

Ph.D., Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Queen Mary University of London
London, United Kingdom

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Investigating Predictors of Comorbid
Sleep Disordered Breathing in
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
(Advisor: Virend Somers, M.D., Ph.D.)

Research Associate

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Department of
Cardiovascular Medicine
Rochester, MN



LIODMILA KARNATOVSKAIA

B.S., Psychology

Florida International University
Miami, FL

M.S., Psychology

University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL

M.D.

University of Florida College of Medicine
Gainesville, FL

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Psychological Support Based on Positive
Suggestions in Acute Respiratory Failure
Patients (Advisor: Ognjen Gajic, M.D.)

Physician

Mayo Clinic
Department of Internal Medicine
Rochester, MN



KIRSTIN JENSENA KOODA

Pharm.D.

Idaho State University
Idaho Falls, ID

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Antibiotic Inertia (Advisor: Fernanda
Bellolio, M.D., M.S.)

Critical Care and Infectious Diseases Pharmacist

Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN



SIWON LEE

Ph.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology

Ewha Woman's University
Seoul, Korea

M.D.

Ewha Woman's University
School of Medicine
Seoul, Korea

M.S., Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Pregnancy Outcomes,
Placenta Histopathology and
Immunohistochemistry in Patients
with a History of Recurrent
Pregnancy Loss or Implantation
Failure Undergoing In Vitro
Fertilization
(Advisor: Sylvie Girard, Ph.D.)

Physician

Dominion Fertility
Arlington, VA



BOLUN LIU

M.B.B.S.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Shanghai, China

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Neoadjuvant Therapy Utilization
and Treatment Delay Pattern
In Stage 1-3 Breast Cancer
amid COVID-19 Pandemic
(Advisor: Kathryn J. Ruddy, M.D.)

Consultant Hospitalist

Mayo Clinic
Department of Internal Medicine
Mankato, MN

Minnesota Master in Biomedical Sciences



JACK GREGORY MADSEN

B.S., Biological Sciences
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND

D.D.S.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

M.S., Dental Specialties
Implant Failures during Post-Treatment Maintenance Phase in Patients with Implant-Supported Full Arch Fixed Dental Prostheses (Advisor: Cindy Zhou, D.M.D.)

Periodontist
Twin Cities Periodontics
St. Louis Park, MN



JEFFREY MARK MCEARCHERN

B.A., Chemistry
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

M.Div., Theology
Denver Seminary
Denver, CO

M.S., Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
Quality Assurance in Radiotheranostics: Challenges and Adaptation (Advisor: Mukesh K. Pandey, Ph.D.)

Head of Quality
Mayo Clinic
Department of Radiology
Rochester, MN



GIORGOS MICHALOPOULOS

M.D.
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Athens, Greece

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences
Standardizing Cumulative Intracranial Tumor Volume as a Predictor and an Outcome in Brain Metastasis (Advisor: Mohamad Bydon, M.D.)

Neurological Surgery Resident
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN



SUJATHA NARAYANAMOORTHY

M.B.B.S.
Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute
Porur, Chennai, India

M.S., Female Pelvic Medicine/Reconstructive Surgery
Longitudinal Assessment of Vaginal Microbiome Changes in New Pessary Users (Advisor: John A. Occhino, M.D., M.S.)

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery Resident
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN



STUART A. OSTBY

B.S., Biology
Washington State University
Vancouver, WA

M.D.
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Rochester, MN

M.S., Obstetrics and Gynecology
Innovations and Surgical Outcomes in En Bloc Resection for Ovarian Cancer (Advisor: Carrie L. Langstraat, M.D.)

Gynecologic Oncology Resident
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN



EMILI PATRICIA ROSADO RODRIGUEZ

B.S., Molecular Biology
University of Puerto Rico
San Juan, Puerto Rico

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences
Heart Failure Medical Management and its Clinical Outcomes Among Adults with Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) (Advisor: Alexander C. Egbe, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.)

Internal Medicine Resident
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Minnesota Master in Biomedical Sciences



SARAH SCHRUP*

B.S., Biophysics

George Washington University
Washington, DC

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Breast Microcalcifications:
Morphometry and Clinical Correlates
(Advisor: Mark E. Sherman, M.D.)



MIRANDA SOPHIA SIMINSKI

B.S., Biological Sciences

Cornell University
Ithaca, NY

M.S., Immunology

Bridging Clonal Dynamics,
Transcriptional States, and
Developmental Pathways in
Follicular Lymphoma: High-
Resolution Single-Cell Insights
into Lymphomagenesis
(Advisor: Anne J. Novak, Ph.D.)

Research Analyst

Viterbo University
La Crosse, WI



DOUGLAS ALANO SIMONETTO

M.D.

Federal University of Health
Sciences of Porto Alegre
Porto Alegre, Brazil

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Early Detection and Prognostication
of Advanced Liver Disease Via
Artificial Intelligence-Enabled
Electrocardiogram
(Advisor: Vijay Shah, M.D.)

Consultant

Mayo Clinic
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DAVID TRYON

B.S., Biology

Southern Adventist University
Collegedale, TN

M.D.

Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Coronary Sinus Reducer Improves
Angina, Quality of Life, And Coronary
Microvascular Function in Patients
with Symptomatic Coronary
Microvascular Dysfunction
(Advisor: Amir Lerman, M.D.)

Interventional Cardiologist

Wake Forest Baptist Health
Winston Salem, NC



SIMRIT WARRING

M.D.

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Rochester, MN

M.S., Obstetrics and Gynecology

(Advisor: Jamie N.
Bakkum-Gamez, M.D.)

Gynecologic Oncology Resident

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
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PATRICK M. WIERUSZEWSKI

B.S., Chemistry; Materials Engineering

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Pharm.D.

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Hemodynamic Influence on
Vasoplegia Associated with
On-Pump Cardiac Surgery
(Advisor: Michael J. Joyner, M.D.)

Pharmacist

Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

*Denotes M.D. with M.S. degree program

Minnesota

Doctor of Philosophy & Master in Biomedical Sciences

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, MAYO CLINIC GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN MINNESOTA

Today marks the end of one chapter in our scientific journeys and the beginning of many others. When we arrived at Mayo Clinic, we came with the curiosity, excitement and hope that our work might contribute something meaningful to science and medicine. Over the years, we learned that discovery rarely happens the way we expect. Experiments fail, hypotheses evolve and progress often comes from persistence rather than certainty.

Graduate school has taught us far more than how to design experiments or analyze data. It has taught us how to ask better questions, how to think critically, and how to approach the unknown with both curiosity and humility. Science is rarely a solitary effort, and the work we celebrate today reflects the contributions of many people who supported us along the way.

To our families and loved ones: thank you for your patience, encouragement and unwavering belief in us throughout this journey. Your support sustained us through long hours, setbacks and moments when the path forward was not always clear. You also shared in our milestones and celebrated the moments when our work finally came together, making those successes even more meaningful.

To our mentors: thank you for investing your time, knowledge and trust in our development. You challenged us to think deeply about our science and encouraged us to pursue questions that pushed the boundaries of what we knew. The lessons you shared about both research and mentorship will continue to shape our careers.

To our labmates, classmates, faculty and the graduate school staff: thank you for creating a community where collaboration and curiosity thrive. Some of our most important insights came not from a single experiment, but from conversations, shared troubleshooting and the collective effort of people working toward a common goal.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the generous benefactors whose support makes many of the opportunities within the graduate school possible. Their commitment to scientific training and discovery has helped shape our experiences in meaningful ways.

We are especially grateful to have trained at Mayo Clinic, where the principle that the needs of the patient come first reminds us why scientific discovery matters. Being part of a community that connects research with patient care has reinforced the responsibility we carry as scientists to ensure that our work ultimately serves others.

As we move into the next stages of our careers, we carry forward the lessons, relationships and values that shaped our time here. The questions that first drew us to science remain, and we leave with an even deeper commitment to pursuing them.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this journey possible.

*Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Minnesota Campus Class of 2026*

“Nothing in life is to be feared: it is only to be understood.”

MARIE CURIE

Minnesota Doctor of Medicine



NADA ABOU-HAIBA

B.S., Biology
University of California
Los Angeles, CA

**Residency, Obstetrics
and Gynecology**
University of Southern California
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**CHRISTEEBELLA
OJONUGWA AKPALA**

B.S., Nursing
Towson University
Towson, MD



HANIN ALI

**B.S., Genetics, Cell Biology
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Residency, Emergency Medicine
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Distinction in Global Health Equity



SAHEJ BAINS*

B.S., Biology
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

**Residency, Internal Medicine;
Physician-Scientist Training Program**
MGB-Brigham and Women's Hospital
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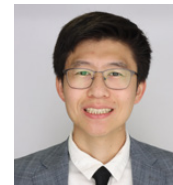


ASHLEY E. BATTENBERG

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**Residency, Internal Medicine;
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M.P.H.

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Residency, General Surgery

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SAMUEL FALLON

B.S., Pre-Professional Studies; Economics

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Residency, Plastic Surgery (Integrated)

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ZOË ALICE FANNING

B.A., International Studies

Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA

M.S., International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies

London School of Economics
and Political Science
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Residency, Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Distinction in Global Health Equity



FORREST WAYNE FEARINGTON

B.S., Neuroscience

Washington State University
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Residency, Otolaryngology

Oregon Health and
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Portland, OR



RAMIN GARMANY*

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Residency, Internal Medicine; Clinical Research Investigator

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ANJIE GE

B.A., Public Health Studies
Johns Hopkins University
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ABHINAV GOYAL*

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Residency, Anesthesiology
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HANNAH BERGE HABERECHT

B.S., Biomedical Sciences
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Residency, Pathology
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BARBARA AMGAD HANNA

B.S., Neurobiology;
English Literature
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Residency, Neurological Surgery
Duke University Medical Center
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**Distinction in Applied Medical
and Health Humanities**



STEPHEN LEWIS HARVEY

B.S., Neuroscience
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M.P.H.
George Washington University
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Residency, Pediatrics
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VICTORIA HEIGH

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Residency, Pathology
New York Presbyterian Hospital
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DREW HICKS

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South Dakota State University
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Residency, Psychiatry

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JADE HO

B.S., Neuroscience

McGill University
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Residency, Preliminary Medicine

MGB-Massachusetts
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JOSEPH PAUL HOFFMANN

B.S., Biochemistry

University of Wisconsin
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D.D.S.

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**Residency, Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery**

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JORDAN ALEX HOLTHE

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Residency, Internal Medicine

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Distinction in Global Health Equity



ANDREA HSU

B.S., Nursing;

B.A., Music

George Mason University
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Residency, Internal Medicine

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BRIAN EDWARD KELLEY

B.S., Science

Pre-Professional Studies

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Notre Dame, IN

Residency, Orthopedic Surgery

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BOYOUNG MICHELLE KIM

B.S., Biology

Duke University
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Residency, Ophthalmology

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JAKE ASHTON KLOEBER*

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University of Rochester
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Residency, Preliminary Medicine

Creighton University
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CATHERINE G. (KIT) KNIER*

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Residency, Internal Medicine

Aurora Health Care/ASMC
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ROBYN LEIGH KUCHLER

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ADAM MAGERA

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Integrative Physiology**

University of Colorado
Boulder, CO

Residency, Emergency Medicine

Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC



REBECCA MCEVOY

B.S., Microbiology

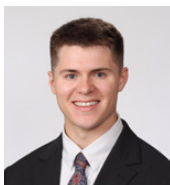
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY

Residency, Anesthesiology

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN

*Denotes M.D.-Ph.D. dual degree program

Minnesota Doctor of Medicine



CADEN J. MESSER

B.S., Cell Biology; Neuroscience
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT

Residency, Orthopedic Surgery
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN



SANJEEV MISHRA

B.S., Physics
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Residency, Internal Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX



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B.S., Biochemistry; Neurobiology
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Residency, Psychiatry
Cambridge Health Alliance
Cambridge, MA

Distinction in Biomedical Ethics



MARCUS NORDQUIST

B.S., Biology
University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN

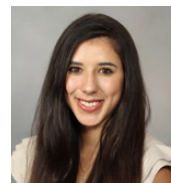
Residency, Emergency Medicine
AdventHealth
Tampa, FL



DOMENIC ANTHONY OCHAL

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Philadelphia, PA

Residency, Internal Medicine
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Residency, Neurology

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Charlottesville, VA



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B.A., Physics; Chemistry

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Residency, Orthopedic Surgery

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN



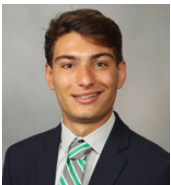
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Medical Education
Rochester, MN



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La Crosse, WI

Residency, Diagnostic Radiology

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Residency, Urology

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Minnesota Doctor of Medicine



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B.A., Political Science
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Residency, Family Medicine
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B.S., Biology
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Residency, Ophthalmology
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
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B.A., Chemistry; Public Policy
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Residency, General Surgery
Washington University
School of Medicine in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

**Distinction in Global Health Equity;
Applied Medical and Health Humanities;
Biomedical Ethics**



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**B.S., Chemical and
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University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN

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**Residency, Oral and
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Medical Education
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B.S., Neuroscience
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University of Virginia Medical Center
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TISSIANA GABRIELA MENNA VALLECILLO

B.S., Molecular and Cellular Biology
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

M.S., Molecular and Cellular Biology
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Residency, Otolaryngology
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN

Minnesota Doctor of Medicine

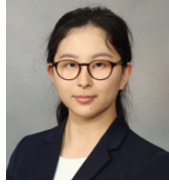


ANHMAI THI VU

B.A., Biological Chemistry; Classics
Grinnell College
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Residency, Preliminary Medicine
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
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Residency, Radiation Oncology
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School of Medicine
Denver, CO



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B.S., Cell Biology; Neuroscience
Rutgers University
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Residency, General Surgery
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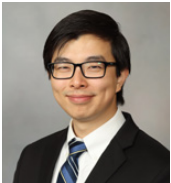


EILENE D. YANG

B.A., Neuroscience and Behavior
Columbia University
New York, NY

Residency, Pediatrics
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

**Distinction in Applied Medical
and Health Humanities**



CONAN YING-YI ZHAO

B.S., Physics;
B.A., Math
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA

Ph.D., Quantitative Biosciences
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Residency, Transitional;
Radiation Oncology
Piedmont Athens Regional;
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Athens, GA; Rochester, MN

Minnesota Doctor of Medicine

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, MAYO CLINIC ALIX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN MINNESOTA

The Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Class of 2026 would like to express our sincere gratitude to the countless individuals who have shaped and supported us on our journeys to becoming physicians.

We thank the patients of Mayo Clinic for graciously allowing us to learn from them during their most vulnerable moments. Our medical education would not be possible without their generosity, especially those who donated extra time to share their stories, repeat histories and undergo additional examinations. Through these experiences, we learned not only the pathogenesis and symptoms of disease, but also the profound importance of appreciating individual narratives and embodying the shared humanity that lies at the heart of medicine.

We express our deepest gratitude to the faculty, fellows and residents who guided our growth from medical students into physicians. From the faculty who set the foundations of our knowledge in disease and treatment to the clinical educators who nurtured us through our transition into patient care, your dedication, mentorship and generosity made our comprehensive education possible. Through your teaching and example, you showed us what it truly means to put the needs of the patient first, a lesson we will carry with us throughout our careers.

To the MCASOM deans, staff and administrators: thank you for the commitment and thoughtful effort you invested in every aspect of our training. So much of what you did took place out of sight, yet it shaped our experience each day in meaningful ways. You fostered a consistent, encouraging environment that helped us develop, adapt, and keep moving forward. We were able to reach this point because of your contributions.

We extend our gratitude to the benefactors of MCASOM, whose generosity provided the foundation for an exceptional education, access to world-class resources, and opportunities to grow through service and discovery. Your support has shaped not only our training, but also the physicians we are becoming.

To our friends and family who walked this path beside us: you carried us through the hardest seasons, offering patience when we had little to give, understanding when we were absent and strength when ours wavered. You carried burdens you did not choose, made sacrifices we can never fully repay and believed in us even when we struggled to believe in ourselves. Every step forward was made possible by your love. This milestone belongs to you, too.

Finally, we thank our fellow students who walked beside us through every step of this journey and profoundly shaped not only our education but who we have become. No one understood the weight of these years quite like you. You shared in our struggles and our triumphs, met long days with resilience and humor, and made even the hardest moments lighter simply by facing them together. What we built here goes far beyond medicine — it is friendship, trust and bonds that will endure long after this chapter ends. We are grateful to those who came before us for their wisdom and support, and to those who follow for the opportunity to share what we have learned and to grow together as friends and future colleagues.

With your support and encouragement, we graduate today as compassionate physicians, shaped by the many people who guided us along this journey. We look forward to beginning the next chapter of our careers with gratitude for all who have invested in us. Truly and deeply, we thank you.

With gratitude,

*Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Minnesota Campus Class of 2026*

“The secret of the care of the patient is
in caring for the patient.”

FRANCIS W. PEABODY

Arizona Class of 2026

May 15, 2026

**Westin Kierland Resort
Scottsdale, Arizona**



MAYO CLINIC
H
SYMBOL OF WISDOM
A statue of an owl presides over the
Ruth and Frederick Mitchell Student Center,
Mayo Clinic Allis School of Medicine,
Rochester, Minnesota.
This replica links the architectural
heritage of our campuses.

Arizona Commencement Program

MAY 15, 2026

Processional	Bagpipers Platform Participants Faculty Representatives Graduates
Welcome from the Executive Dean	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
Commencement Address	Fredric B. Meyer, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (MCGSBS) Dean's Remarks and Awards	Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D.
MCGSBS Student Address	Natalie Maria Elliott
Remarks by the CEO, Mayo Clinic in Arizona	Richard J. Gray, M.D.
Conferring of Ph.D. and Master's Degrees	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D. Devyani Lal, M.D. Jessica N. Lancaster, Ph.D. Nhan L. Tran, Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine (MCASOM) Dean's Remarks and Awards	Jewel M. Kling, M.D., M.P.H.
MCASOM Student Address	Stephanie Rocio Hernandez
Conferring of Medical Degrees	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. Jewel M. Kling, M.D., M.P.H. Jesse D. Bracamonte, D.O. Keith J. Cannon, M.D. Douglas E. Rappaport, M.D.
Reading of the Physician's Pledge	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. All M.D. Attendees and Graduates
Concluding Remarks	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
Recessional	

Please join us after the recessional for a reception in the Trailblazers Ballroom, Foyer and Terrace.

Arizona Platform Participants

In order of appearance

NNEKA I. COMFERE, M.D.

Juanita Kious Waugh Executive Dean of Education,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science
Dean, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Professor of Dermatology;
Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

FREDRIC B. MEYER, M.D.

Commencement Speaker
Alfred Uihlein Family Professor of Neurologic Surgery,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

LEIGH G. GRIFFITHS, MRCVS, PH.D.

Dean, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

NATALIE MARIA ELLIOTT

Student Speaker,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

DEVYANI LAL, M.D.

Dean, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science –
Arizona Campus
Professor of Otolaryngology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

JESSICA N. LANCASTER, PH.D.

Assistant Dean,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Associate Professor of Immunology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

NHAN L. TRAN, PH.D.

Associate Dean,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Professor of Cancer Biology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

JEWEL M. KLING, M.D., M.P.H.

Vice Dean, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Suzanne Hanson Poole Dean,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine – Arizona Campus
Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

STEPHANIE ROCIO HERNANDEZ

Student Speaker,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

JESSE D. BRACAMONTE, D.O.

George M. and Kristen L. Lund Associate Dean for
Student Affairs, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

KEITH J. CANNON, M.D.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

DOUGLAS E. RAPPAPORT, M.D.

Assistant Dean of Career Advising,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

“The best interest of the patient is the only interest
to be considered, and in order that the sick may
have the benefit of advancing knowledge,
union of forces is necessary.”

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D.

Arizona Doctor of Philosophy



JARED BROOKSBY

B.S., Biotechnology
Utah Valley University
Orem, UT

Ph.D., Immunology
Group 2 Innate Lymphoid
Cells Program Pulmonary
Adaptive Immunity
(Advisor: Hirohito Kita, M.D.)

Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Department of Medicine
Phoenix, Arizona



NATALIE MARIA ELLIOTT

**B.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Grand Canyon University
Phoenix, AZ

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy
Characterization of a Synthetic
Vesiculovirus Vector Platform
Displaying Novel Vesiculovirus
Glycoproteins for Repeat
Systemic Dosing and
Tumor Microenvironment
Immunomodulation
(Advisor: Mitesh J. Borad, M.D.)

Fellow
Mayo Clinic
Molecular Medicine
Phoenix, AZ



MIN-JHEN JHENG

B.S., Life Sciences
National Tsing-Hua University
Hsinchu City, Taiwan

M.S., Immunology
National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan

Ph.D., Virology and Gene Therapy
Role of Tissue-Resident Regulatory
T Cells in Lung Type 2 Immunity
(Advisor: Hirohito Kita, M.D.)

Research Associate
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, TN



TINA KWOK

B.S., Biological Sciences
University of California
Davis, CA

Ph.D., Immunology
Macrophage Repolarization by
Immune Checkpoint Blockade
Drives T-Cell Engagement in the
Tumor Microenvironment (Advisor:
Jessica N. Lancaster, Ph.D.)

Scientist
Biocytogen
Pharmacology Department
Waltham, MA



AUNA'Y FRENCHETTE MILLER

B.S., Biochemistry
Clemson University
Clemson, SC

**Ph.D., Clinical and
Translational Science**
Molecular Determinants of
Glioma Stem Cell Identity and
Therapy Resistance
(Advisor: Nhan L. Tran, Ph.D.)

Fellow
Translational Genomics
Research Institute
Phoenix, AZ



BENJAMIN ELIOT RABICHOW

**B.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Ph.D., Neuroscience
Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms
of Mixed Pathology Dementia
(Advisors: Nhan L. Tran, Ph.D.;
John D. Fryer, Ph.D.)

Fellow
Translational Genomics
Research Institute
Phoenix, AZ

Arizona Master in Biomedical Sciences



ADAM E. BROWN*

B.A., Chemistry
Concordia University
Portland, OR

**M.S., Artificial Intelligence
in Healthcare**

Towards Voice and AI as a Clinical
Biomarker for Aspiration Risk
Prediction: A Critical Exploration
of Complexity, Performance, and
Explainability of AI Voice Models
(Advisor: Cyril Varghese, M.D., M.S.)

Emergency Medicine Resident

University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX



DESTINY L. GREEN*

B.S., Molecular and Cell Biology
Nevada State College
Henderson, NV

**M.S., Artificial Intelligence
in Healthcare**

Mapping the Invisible Margin:
A Physics and Biology Informed
Machine Learning Model for
Predicting 5-ALA Fluorescence
in High-Grade Glioma
(Advisor: Bernard R. Bendok, M.D.)

Neurological Surgery Resident

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA



LAUREN E. TALLANT

B.S., Genetics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA

**M.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**

Genetic Contributions to
Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis
(Advisor: Hirohito Kita, M.D.)

Senior Research Associate

TGen
Bioinnovation and Genome
Sciences Division
Phoenix, AZ

*Denotes M.D. with M.S. degree program

Arizona

Doctor of Philosophy & Master in Biomedical Sciences

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, MAYO CLINIC GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN ARIZONA

Today we celebrate a milestone in our careers. Today is the culmination of the passion and determination that brought us to Mayo Clinic and the resilience that carried us through our graduate education. We learned to overcome imposter syndrome, to embrace failure as an essential step in novel discovery and to follow the science even if it requires us to pivot our expectations. We are now considered experts in our field: confident in what we know, honest in what we don't know and embracing humility in all we do.

We did not arrive at this moment on our own.

To our loved ones: your encouragement carried us through long experiments, setbacks and moments of doubt. We share this achievement with you.

To our mentors: you challenged us, championed us and shaped our development as scientists. We will pass forward the generosity, guidance and rigor you showed us.

To our labmates, classmates, instructors, administrators and the entire graduate school community: you created an environment of collaboration, curiosity and shared purpose. Through every discussion, critique, celebration and troubleshooting session, you reminded us that science thrives when pursued together.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Mayo Clinic. Training within an institution guided by the enduring value, "the needs of the patient come first," has profoundly shaped our identity as scientists. Here, we learned that science and compassion are inseparable, and that bridging the bench to the bedside is both a responsibility and a privilege.

We are grateful as well to our generous benefactors, whose contributions create opportunities that enrich our training and broaden our experiences.

As we look ahead, we do so with pride, excitement and optimism. Today reflects not only what we have accomplished but what we are prepared to do next.

*Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Arizona Campus Class of 2026*

“The scientist is not content to stop at the obvious.”

CHARLES H. MAYO, M.D.

Arizona Doctor of Medicine



MEGAN LANELLE ANDERSON

B.A., German

Northwestern University
Evanston, IL

Residency, Orthopedic Surgery

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M.S., Management

Northeastern University
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Residency, Anesthesiology

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New Orleans, LA



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B.A., Economics

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**M.S., Healthcare
Administration and Policy**

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Tempe, AZ

Residency, Otolaryngology

Oregon Health and
Science University
Portland, OR



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Tempe, AZ



GEORGE BCHARAH

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**M.S., Data Science and
Artificial Intelligence**

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Boston, MA

**M.S., Health Care
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Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

Arizona Doctor of Medicine



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Stanford Health Care
Stanford, CA

**Distinction in Applied Medical
and Health Humanities**



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B.S., Biology
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Residency, Transitional
Oregon Health and
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*Denotes M.D. with M.S. degree program

Arizona Doctor of Medicine



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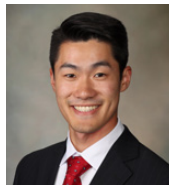
Residency, Neurological Surgery

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M.S., Healthcare

Administration and Policy

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WILLIAM HAN

B.A., Molecular and Cell Biology

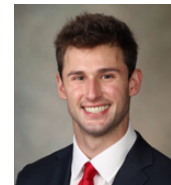
University of California
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SIERRA NICOLE MURPHY

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Mathematics**

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B.A., Chemistry

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J.D.

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CHUYING JESSICA SU

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UCLA Medical Center
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Arizona Doctor of Medicine



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Medical Education
Scottsdale, AZ

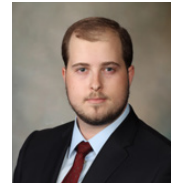


BRIANNA TOMLINSON

B.S., Biological Sciences
California Polytechnic
State University
San Luis Obispo, CA

**M.S., Health Care
Administration and Policy**
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

Residency, Emergency Medicine
University of California
San Francisco
Fresno, CA



DANIEL MARK VERNIK

B.S., Microbiology; Immunology
University of Miami
Miami, FL

M.S., Physiology; Biophysics
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

Residency, Plastic Surgery (Integrated)
Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine
Las Vegas, NV



EMMA WILLCOCKS

B.S., Biology
Brown University
Providence, RI

M.S., Environmental Health
Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health
Boston, MA

Residency, Internal Medicine
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Scottsdale, AZ



ALAN ZHU

B.S., Computer Science; Mathematics
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Residency, Transitional
Baptist Health
North Little Rock, AR

Residency, Diagnostic Radiology
Houston Methodist Hospital
Houston, TX

Arizona Doctor of Medicine

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, MAYO CLINIC ALIX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN ARIZONA

The Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Class of 2026 extends its sincere gratitude to all who helped us achieve what, for many, has been a decades-long journey toward becoming physicians.

Most importantly, we thank the patients who welcomed us into their lives at moments of profound vulnerability — from the joy of childbirth to the weight of difficult decisions and heartbreaking loss. They have been our greatest teachers in the pursuit of knowledge, skill and compassion. Their patience with us is deeply appreciated, and we commit ourselves to ensuring that their willingness to have students as part of their care team, and the lessons we learned from them, are carried forward as we begin a new chapter as resident physicians.

We also thank the faculty and staff of Mayo Clinic and our partner institutions for their guidance and dedication in teaching us to practice within the inherent uncertainty of medicine. From the scrub nurse who helped us

navigate the operating room, to the emergency physician who patiently taught us complex clinical reasoning, to the fellow who took additional time during busy days to teach us on rounds and in the OR, your mentorship shaped who we are becoming. In lecture halls, clinics and hospital corridors, you demonstrated that medicine is both a science and an art.

This journey would not have been possible without the support we relied upon during moments of challenge. To our families and friends, whose sacrifices of time and opportunity made this path possible, we offer our deepest thanks. As we leave our beloved medical school, we commit to honoring one of Mayo Clinic's enduring values throughout our careers: to put the needs of the patient first and to continuously strive for excellence in all we do.

*Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Arizona Campus Class of 2026*

“The best way to find yourself is to lose
yourself in the service of others.”

MAHATMA GANDHI

Florida Class of 2026

May 17, 2026

**Cannaday Building, Kinne Auditorium
Jacksonville, Florida**



Florida Commencement Program

MAY 17, 2026

Processional	Bagpipers Platform Participants Faculty Representatives Graduates
Welcome from the Executive Dean	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
Remarks by the CEO, Mayo Clinic in Florida	Kent R. Thielen, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (MCGSBS) Dean's Remarks and Awards	Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D.
MCGSBS Student Address	Jaida Lue
Conferring of Ph.D. and Master's Degrees	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. Leigh G. Griffiths, MRCVS, Ph.D. Margaret M. Johnson, M.D. Evette S. Radisky, Ph.D. Wilfried O. Rossoll, Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine (MCASOM) Dean's Remarks and Awards	Abba C. Zubair, M.D., Ph.D.
MCASOM Student Address	Ryan I. May
Conferring of Medical Degrees	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. Abba C. Zubair, M.D., Ph.D. Brynn K. Dredla, M.D. Chris Fox, M.D. Michele D. Lewis, M.D.
Reading of the Physician's Pledge	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D. All M.D. Attendees and Graduates
Concluding Remarks	Nneka I. Comfere, M.D.
Recessional	

Please join us after the recessional for a reception at M Brothers at Mayo.

Florida Platform Participants

In order of appearance

NNEKA I. COMFERE, M.D.

Juanita Kious Waugh Executive Dean of Education,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science
Dean, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Professor of Dermatology;
Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

FREDRIC B. MEYER, M.D.

Commencement Speaker
Alfred Uihlein Family Professor of Neurologic Surgery,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

KENT R. THIELEN, M.D.

CEO, Mayo Clinic in Florida
Professor of Radiology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

LEIGH G. GRIFFITHS, MRCVS, PH.D.

Dean, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

JAIDA LUE

Student Speaker,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

MARGARET M. JOHNSON, M.D.

Dean, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science –
Florida Campus
Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

EVETTE S. RADISKY, PH.D.

Associate Dean,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Professor of Cancer Biology;
Professor of Pharmacology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

WILFRIED O. ROSSOLL, PH.D.

Assistant Dean,
Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Associate Professor of Neuroscience,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

ABBA C. ZUBAIR, M.D., PH.D.

Vice Dean, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Dean, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine – Florida Campus
Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

RYAN I. MAY

Student Speaker,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

BRYNN K. DREDLA, M.D.

Assistant Dean of Career Advising,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Neurology,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

CHRIS FOX, M.D.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Professor of Neurosurgery,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

MICHELE D. LEWIS, M.D.

Associate Dean for Admissions,
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

“Knowledge of the past gave the foundation upon
which has been built the present, and upon which
we predict the future.”

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D.

Florida Doctor of Philosophy



SHAROON AKHTAR

B.S., Chemistry

Forman Christian College
Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

M.Phil., Biotechnology

Forman Christian College
Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Defining PRSS23 as a Novel
Non-Protease Homolog That
Promotes Ovarian Cancer
Progression (Advisor: Evette S.
Radisky, Ph.D.)



GIULIA DEL ROSSO

B.S., Human Biology

University of Siena
Siena, Tuscany, Italy

M.S., Neuroscience

University of Trieste
Trieste, Italy

Ph.D., Neuroscience

Investigating TDP-43 Dysfunction
in Neurodegenerative Diseases
(Advisor: Leonard Petrucelli, Ph.D.)

Postdoctoral Scholar

University of California
School of Medicine
Department of Pathology
Irvine, CA



AYMAN HUQ FAROQI

B.S., Molecular Biology

University of North Florida
Jacksonville, FL

Ph.D., Neuroscience

Development and Validation
of CRISPR Interference to
Reduce Alpha-Synuclein
Expression as a Therapeutic
Strategy for Parkinson's Disease
(Advisor: Pam J. McLean, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mayo Clinic
Department of Neuroscience
Jacksonville, FL



JAIDA LUE

B.S., Health Sciences

University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL

Ph.D., Clinical and Translational Sciences

Senescent-Immune Spatial Dynamics
in the Aging Breast Microenvironment
Shape Cancer Risk
(Advisor: Derek C. Radisky, Ph.D.)



DUY TAM NGUYEN

B.S., Biomedical Sciences

University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

Ph.D., Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

Protein Kinase C Iota Dictates
Tumor Trajectory, Cellular Plasticity,
and Immune Microenvironment
in Lung Adenocarcinoma
(Advisor: Alan P. Fields, Ph.D.)

TRIUMPH Fellow

MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX



UDIT SHETH

B.S., Neuroscience

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D., Neuroscience

Fluid Biomarkers and Molecular
Modifiers of Frontotemporal
Dementia Spectrum Disorders.
(Advisor: Tania Gendron, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mass General Brigham
Boston, MA

Florida Doctor of Philosophy



NIKOLETA TAMVAKA

**B.S., Neuroscience;
Mathematics**

Dickinson College
Carlisle, PA

Ph.D., Neuroscience

Investigating the Biological
Determinants of 3R Tau
Aggregation in Pick's Disease.
(Advisor: Owen A. Ross, Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mayo Clinic
Jacksonville, FL



EVAN UDINE

B.A., Neuroscience

Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY

M.S., Neuroscience

Columbia University
Teachers College
New York, NY

Ph.D., Neuroscience

Employing Long-Read Sequencing
to Capture Signatures of C9orf72-
Linked FTL/ALS (Advisor: Marka M.
Van Blitterswijk, M.D., Ph.D.)

Research Fellow

Mayo Clinic
Jacksonville, FL

Florida Master in Biomedical Sciences



MATT COBAN

B.S., Biomedical Sciences

Florida State College
Jacksonville, FL

**M.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**

(Advisor: Evette S. Radisky, Ph.D.)

Research Technologist

Mayo Clinic
Department of Cancer Biology
Jacksonville, FL



LAUREN NICOLE FRANK

B.S., Medical Laboratory Science

Georgia Southern University
Savannah, GA

**M.S., Molecular Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics**

Metallo-Beta-Lactamases in
Enterobacteriales: A Growing Challenge
in Antimicrobial Resistance
(Advisor: Evette S. Radisky, Ph.D.)

Medical Technologist

Mayo Clinic
Department of Laboratory
Medicine and Pathology
Jacksonville, FL

Florida

Doctor of Philosophy & Master in Biomedical Sciences

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, MAYO CLINIC GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN FLORIDA

Today we celebrate not just achievement but the profound resilience required to reach it. We could not control the uncertainty, the storms or the setbacks — only how we chose to rise through them. And so we rose, time after time, shaped by sacrifice, humbled by failure and made stronger by both. What we gained today is significant, but who we became is everything.

Before we look forward, we want to look around at the people who made this possible.

To our families: you are where our story begins. You were our first teachers in patience, perseverance and commitment. Your sacrifices were countless, often invisible, yet they carried us to this moment. No amount of words could ever capture what that has meant. We carry you with us into every room we will ever enter. We are because you are.

To our friends: you brought laughter into our hardest seasons and kept us grounded in the life that existed beyond the lab. You did not need to understand what we were building to cheer us on. You celebrated our wins as if they were your own and showed up in ways we will never forget. Some of the best parts of these years were because of you.

To our MCGSBS community: science brought us into the same rooms, but the trust and support we built bound us together. We shared our fears, discussed our dreams and never stopped asking how we could leave this path better for those who would walk it next. You inspired us to reach for greatness and reminded us that this path was never meant to be walked alone.

To our mentors: the time you poured into our development and your conviction that the future of science was brighter with us in it sustained us in ways we are still discovering. We carry that belief with us always, and we will spend our careers passing it forward.

To the deans, staff and administrators: much of what made this experience possible happened quietly, behind the scenes, in ways we may never fully know. We are grateful for your advocacy, for creating spaces where we could gather and support one another, and for every moment you went above and beyond.

Behind every one of us stands a village whose love, sacrifice and belief made this moment real. Today we celebrate with them. We could not have done this without you.

*Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Florida Campus Class of 2026*

“One doesn’t discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.”

ANDRÉ GIDE

Florida Doctor of Medicine



ALEXANDRA RENEE BECHTLE

B.S., Biomedical Engineering
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

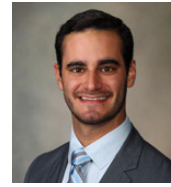
Residency, Preliminary Surgery
Brown University/
Rhode Island Hospital
Providence, RI



XINDI (CECE) CHEN

**B.A., Biochemistry, Neuroscience,
and Healthcare Management**
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Residency, General Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN



GUIDO ANDRES CHIRIBOGA

B.S., Biology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Residency, Internal Medicine
University of Michigan Hospitals
Ann Arbor, MI



VIVIAN CHINONYEREM ILOABUCHI

**B.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Fisk University
Nashville, TN

Residency, Transitional
Wellstar Health System
Marietta, GA

Residency, Dermatology
Boston University Medical Center
Boston, MA

Distinction in Global Health Equity



NOAH ANDERSON LEE

B.S., Psychological Sciences
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, VA

Residency, Psychiatry
University of Virginia Medical Center
Charlottesville, VA

Distinction in Biomedical Ethics



TRISTAN A. L'ESPERANCE

B.S., Biology
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Residency, Internal Medicine
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, WI

Florida Doctor of Medicine



RYAN IVERSON MAY

**B.S., Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**
Mercer University
Macon, GA

M.B.A.
Mercer University
Macon, GA

Residency, Otolaryngology
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center
Boston, MA



HEATHER KATHRYN PUMP

B.A., Neuroscience
Boston University
Boston, MA

Residency, Pediatrics
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, MN



DAVID YACOUB

B.S., Biomedical Science
Charles R. Drew University of
Medicine and Science
Los Angeles, CA

Florida Doctor of Medicine

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM THE CLASS OF 2026, MAYO CLINIC ALIX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN FLORIDA

The Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Class of 2026 offers our deepest gratitude to the many individuals and communities who have shaped us into the physicians we are today.

To the patients of Mayo Clinic: thank you for welcoming us into your lives. You trusted us at moments defined by uncertainty, vulnerability and hope. In clinics, hospital wards and operating rooms, you allowed us to witness not only the manifestations of disease, but also the resilience, dignity and individuality that define the human experience. You reminded us that medicine is not merely diagnostic reasoning or procedural skill; it is presence, humility and partnership.

To the faculty and clinical educators who guided us: your dedication has been extraordinary. You met a class of nine students with diverse aspirations, and you prepared each of us with rigor and intention. You modeled intellectual curiosity, technical excellence, ethical clarity and, above all, compassionate patient-centered care. Whether teaching psychopharmacology, refining a physical exam, supervising a clinic visit or guiding us through a procedure in the operating room, you demonstrated that excellence in medicine is inseparable from integrity and empathy. We are profoundly grateful for the time, feedback and trust you invested in us.

To the Student Affairs and Academic Affairs teams: a great deal of your work went unnoticed, yet its influence was present in every part of our experience. The coordination of schedules, clerkships, evaluations, advising and

countless logistical details created the structure that allowed us to focus on learning and patient care. Your advocacy, responsiveness and commitment to quality ensured that our clinical training was exceptional. We recognize that the stability and richness of our education are, in large part, the result of your careful stewardship.

To the benefactors of Mayo Clinic: your generosity has provided access to unparalleled educational resources and opportunities for service. The environments in which we trained — equipped with advanced technology, interdisciplinary collaboration and a culture of inquiry — reflect your enduring commitment to advancing medical education. We are beneficiaries of that vision and carry forward a responsibility to honor it in our own careers.

Finally, to our families and friends: your sacrifices, patience and encouragement sustained us. You accepted missed holidays, late-night calls, exam stress and the emotional weight that medical training can carry. You celebrated milestones that sometimes felt distant and reminded us of who we are beyond our stethoscopes. This achievement belongs to you as much as it belongs to us.

As we graduate and move forward into residency, we do so grounded in Mayo Clinic's foremost value: the needs of the patient come first. We leave the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine with gratitude for the community that shaped us and with a commitment to honor that investment in every patient we serve.

Thank you.

*Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Florida Campus Class of 2026*

“Wherever the art of Medicine is loved,
there is also a love of Humanity.”

HIPPOCRATES

2026 Awards

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Awards

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Dean's Recognition Award recipients are chosen by Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences leadership. Recipients exemplify exceptional service to graduate school education.

Recipients

Autumn J. Schulze, Ph.D.
Matthew W. Urban, Ph.D.

DEAN'S ADMINISTRATIVE RECOGNITION AWARD

This award is presented to an administrative staff member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the graduate school and graduate education. This is the first year this award is being presented.

Recipient

Andrew C. Lancaster

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, the graduate students select faculty members to receive Teacher of the Year Awards. The awards are given to faculty members who have made significant contributions to graduate student education.

Recipients

Gina Razidlo, Ph.D.
Autumn J. Schulze, Ph.D.

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

Outstanding Mentor Award recipients are chosen by the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences predoctoral students to recognize effective mentors. Mentorship refers to the facilitation of individual student success and independence by providing appropriate tools and promoting skill learning in a mutually respectful environment with open communication. Effective mentors advise and help the mentee develop the numerous skills they need to be scientific leaders.

Recipient

Dora Hermes Miller, Ph.D.



“Science knows no country.”

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Autumn J. Schulze, Ph.D.

Dr. Autumn Schulze is an assistant professor of molecular medicine and senior associate consultant at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where she leads a research program focused on developing RNA-based therapeutics for cancer. She earned her Bachelor of Science in microbiology and virology from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. in anatomy and cell biology from the University of Kansas Medical Center, followed by postdoctoral training at Mayo Clinic. Her work centers on oncolytic picornavirus therapies, combining insights from viral biology and host-cell interactions to design innovative, synergistic treatment strategies aimed at improving clinical outcomes. In addition to her research, Dr. Schulze is deeply committed to education and mentorship,

serving as director of the Virology and Gene Therapy Graduate Program and supporting trainees across multiple stages of scientific development. She is recognized for cultivating an inclusive and collaborative academic environment and is dedicated to advancing both scientific discovery and the next generation of biomedical researchers.



DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Matthew W. Urban, Ph.D.

Dr. Matthew Urban is a professor of radiology and associate professor of biomedical engineering at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, with joint appointments in the Departments of Radiology and Physiology and Biomedical Engineering. He also serves as associate program director for the Biomedical Engineering and Physiology Track. Dr. Urban earned his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University and his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. His research focuses on ultrasound-based imaging and elasticity techniques, including shear wave elastography and vibro-acoustography, with the goal of developing noninvasive methods to assess tissue properties in conditions such as chronic kidney disease and

post-transplant states. His work has led to over 160 peer-reviewed publications and multiple patents, supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health and industry collaborators. In addition to his research contributions, Dr. Urban is a dedicated mentor and educator, having trained numerous graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a fellow of both the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and the Acoustical Society of America.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



DEAN'S ADMINISTRATIVE RECOGNITION AWARD

Andrew C. Lancaster

Andrew Lancaster is an education specialist at the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Jacksonville, Florida, and an instructor in medical education at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. He supports graduate and trainee education through curriculum development, program coordination and data-informed decision-making, leveraging analytics and digital tools to enhance the learner experience. He earned his bachelor's degree in health administration and is a Mayo Clinic Quality

Fellow at the bronze level. With professional interests in educational innovation, quality improvement and fostering inclusive academic communities, he is dedicated to advancing impactful and learner-centered educational programs. Outside of his professional role, Andrew enjoys spending time with his wife and son and volunteers as a youth baseball coach, finding meaningful connection through mentorship, teamwork and community involvement.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Gina Razidlo, Ph.D.

Dr. Gina Razidlo is an associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Mayo Clinic with a joint appointment in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. She serves as course director for molecular cell biology and teaches across multiple areas, including cancer biology, cell signaling and cytoskeletal biology. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in chemistry from Gustavus Adolphus College and her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, followed by postdoctoral training at both Nebraska and Mayo Clinic. Her research focuses on pancreatic cancer cell biology and the mechanisms of metastasis, and she is recognized as a Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center Emerging Leader. In addition to her scientific work, Dr. Razidlo

is a dedicated educator and mentor who is deeply invested in the success of her students. Students note her enthusiasm, clarity in explaining complex concepts and ability to make material both accessible and relevant, as well as the welcoming and low-stress learning environment she creates where learners feel comfortable asking questions and developing confidence. Through her teaching, mentorship and leadership, she has made a lasting impact on trainees and continues to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Autumn J. Schulze, Ph.D.

Dr. Autumn Schulze is an assistant professor of molecular medicine and senior associate consultant at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where she leads a research program focused on developing RNA-based therapeutics for cancer. She earned her Bachelor of Science in microbiology and virology from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. in anatomy and cell biology from the University of Kansas Medical Center, followed by postdoctoral training at Mayo Clinic. Her work centers on oncolytic picornavirus therapies, combining insights from viral biology and host-cell interactions to design innovative, synergistic treatment strategies aimed at improving clinical outcomes. In addition to her research, Dr. Schulze is deeply committed to education and

mentorship, serving as director of the Virology and Gene Therapy Graduate Program and supporting trainees across multiple stages of scientific development. She is recognized for cultivating an inclusive and collaborative academic environment and is dedicated to advancing both scientific discovery and the next generation of biomedical researchers. Students praise her enthusiasm, clarity in teaching complex concepts, and her approachable, low-stress learning environment that encourages students to engage, ask questions and grow with confidence.



OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

Dora Hermes Miller, Ph.D.

Dr. Dora Hermes Miller is an associate professor of biomedical engineering and senior associate consultant in the Departments of Physiology and Biomedical Engineering, Radiology, and Neurology at Mayo Clinic. Her research focuses on understanding brain signals in the living human brain to identify biomarkers of neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases and to develop neuroprosthetic technologies. Using a human systems neuroscience approach, she integrates multimodal imaging, intracranial recordings and computational modeling to study neural network dynamics, electrical stimulation and brain oscillations. Dr. Hermes Miller collaborates closely with clinicians to advance neuromodulation therapies, particularly for conditions such as epilepsy, with the goal of developing

next-generation therapeutic devices that interface directly with brain activity. In addition to her scientific contributions, Dr. Hermes is a dedicated mentor and educator. Students say that she combines scientific rigor with genuine warmth, fostering an inclusive, collaborative lab where students' ideas, strengths and well-being are prioritized. By mentoring with empathy, she encourages independence, supports personal and professional growth and advocates for trainees at all levels. By cultivating a close-knit, high-standard environment grounded in integrity and innovation, she inspires confidence, belonging and excellence in her students.

2026 Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Dean's Recognition Award recipients are chosen for each school by Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine leadership. Recipients demonstrate extraordinary service to medical education.

Recipients

Yasmeen M. Butt, M.D., Arizona
Aakriti R. Carrubba, M.D., Florida
Sara S. Oberhelman-Eaton, M.D., Minnesota

DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Chosen by Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine leadership, Distinguished Service Award recipients are Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine educators or leaders who have exemplified outstanding service and dedication to the medical school over the course of their careers.

Recipients

Daniel R. Held, CHSOS, Arizona
Elliot L. Dimberg, M.D., Florida
Joseph P. Grande, M.D., Ph.D., Minnesota

DEAN'S TEACHER AWARD

Chosen by Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine leadership, Dean's Teacher Award recipients are Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine educators or leaders who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to medical education.

Recipient

Andrea N. Leep Hunderfund, M.D., M.H.P.E.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Teaching Excellence Award is based on MedHub evaluations, and it celebrates the most effective educators as nominated by students. Award recipients scored the highest in the category of overall effectiveness of teaching and had the highest number of nominations for the award.

Recipients

Natalie R. Langley, Ph.D., Arizona
Stephen M. McMullan, M.D., Florida
Brendan J. Mulhern, M.D., Minnesota

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, graduating medical students on each campus select one faculty member to receive the Teacher of the Year Award. This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to medical education at Mayo Clinic.

Recipients

Daniel L. Roberts, M.D., Arizona
Edson J. Mwakyanjala, M.D., Florida
Semirra L. Bayan, M.D., Minnesota

GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine third- and fourth-year students on each campus select up to three residents or fellow educators to receive the Golden Stethoscope Award. Students recognize these residents and fellows for their outstanding commitment to medical student education and for going above and beyond expectations during the students' clinical experiences.

Recipients

Maximiliano Diaz Menindez, M.D., Arizona Resident
Hunter B. VanDolah, M.D., Arizona Resident
Alec M. Johnson, D.O., Arizona Fellow
Shai M. Chazin, M.D., Florida Resident
Nihal Satyadev, M.D., M.P.H., Florida Resident
Jacob R. Henderson, D.O., Florida Fellow
Erin E. Finn, M.D., M.P.H., Minnesota Resident
Lemuel E. Hackshaw, M.D., Minnesota Resident
Omar J. Haque, M.D., M.P.H., Minnesota Fellow

MAYO BROTHERS AWARD

Given in memory of William and Charles Mayo's service to the Army, this prestigious award is presented to a graduating medical school student who embodies the values of Mayo Clinic as well as the values of the United States Armed Forces medicine — academic performance, leadership, service, integrity, dutifulness and dedication to the patients. Recipients of this award have honorable military service and are chosen by Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine leadership.

Recipient

Daniel T. Secor

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



ARIZONA DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Yasmeen M. Butt, M.D.

Dr. Yasmeen Butt is an anatomic pathologist at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, with specialized expertise in pulmonary and cardiovascular pathology. Her clinical work spans interstitial lung disease, thoracic malignancies and transplant pathology involving the heart and lungs. She completed residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology followed by a thoracic pathology fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and is board certified in anatomic pathology. Dr. Butt has established herself as a leader in medical education, serving as chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Education Committee and as residency advisory

director for pathology at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. She is also actively involved in national professional organizations, including leadership roles within the College of American Pathologists focused on workforce development and professional advancement. An accomplished scholar, she authored "Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology: A Pattern-Based Approach" and has received numerous honors recognizing her contributions to education and mentorship, including the Mayo Clinic Outstanding Faculty Award and designation as an American Society for Clinical Pathology "40 Under Forty" honoree.



FLORIDA DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Aakriti R. Carrubba, M.D.

Dr. Aakriti Carrubba is a consultant and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Mayo Clinic in Florida, specializing in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. She completed her residency at the University of Colorado in Denver and a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery at Mayo Clinic. She holds multiple leadership roles in medical education, including site director of the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine and associate program director of the Complex Benign Gynecology fellowship. Her academic work includes education-focused research, supported by an Endowment for Education Research Award for a project on teaching pelvic floor examination using simulation models. She has also received funding from the Mayo Clinic

Women's Health Research Center to study the impact of reproductive healthcare legislation on medical education and residency decision-making. Dr. Carrubba has a strong interest in procedural education and has developed simulation-based curricula using cadaver models to teach laparoscopic skills. Her clinical interests include abnormal uterine bleeding, fibroids, endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain, with research focused on integrative approaches and procedural management of pelvic floor pain. She serves as a board member of the Pelvic Pain Special Interest Group through American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists and is dedicated to preparing trainees for comprehensive women's healthcare.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



MINNESOTA DEAN'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Sara S. Oberhelman-Eaton, M.D.

Dr. Sara Oberhelman-Eaton is a family medicine physician at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where she has practiced since completing her residency training. She earned her medical degree from the University of Kansas and holds board certification in family medicine, along with additional certification in lactation medicine. Her clinical work encompasses comprehensive family care, including outpatient medicine, prenatal and obstetrical services, and specialized consultation in complex lactation cases. As clerkship director for the family medicine rotation, she has led transformative curricular initiatives such

as expanding clinical experiences, integrating service-learning components and developing longitudinal, team-based educational models. In addition, she serves as medical director of a community safety-net clinic, helping to ensure access to care for underserved populations. Dr. Oberhelman-Eaton's scholarly interests focus on lactation medicine and educational innovation, and her work has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Endowment for Education Research Award and Excellence in Education honors.



ARIZONA DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Daniel R. Held, CHSOS

Daniel Held is an instructor of medical education and simulation operations specialist in the Experiential Learning Department at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He has supported medical education at Mayo Clinic since 2015, working extensively within the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine gross anatomy laboratory and simulation-based assessment environments. In his role, he oversees the preparation and operation of anatomy laboratories, simulation and OSCE suites, and associated educational technologies, ensuring that learning spaces are safe, reliable and well

equipped for both instruction and evaluation. He earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Minnesota Duluth and an Associate of Applied Science from Mesa Community College, and he is a certified healthcare simulation operations specialist. Through his work, Daniel plays an essential role in supporting hands-on medical education and maintaining high-quality experiential learning environments for students and faculty.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



FLORIDA DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Elliot L. Dimberg, M.D.

Dr. Elliot Dimberg is a consultant in the Division of Neuromuscular Medicine and Clinical Neurophysiology in the Department of Neurology at Mayo Clinic in Florida and an assistant professor at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. He earned degrees in government and biology before earning his medical degree at Tulane University. He then completed an internal medicine internship and neurology residency at the University of Virginia, followed by fellowships in clinical neurophysiology and muscle disease at the University of Virginia and Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. His clinical and research work focuses on neuromuscular disorders, clinical neurophysiology and intraoperative monitoring. Since joining Mayo Clinic, Dr. Dimberg has held numerous

leadership roles in medical education, including neurology clerkship site director, clerkship director, adult neurology residency program director and associate dean for academic affairs for the Florida campus of the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. He is actively engaged in teaching at local, regional and national levels and has held leadership positions within the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine and the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society. His dedication to education has been recognized with numerous teaching awards, reflecting his longstanding commitment to training future neurologists.



MINNESOTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Joseph P. Grande, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Joseph Grande is a professor of laboratory medicine and pathology at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and an emeritus member of the Division of Anatomic Pathology, with an additional affiliation in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension. He earned his Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and both his M.D. and Ph.D. in pathology from the University of Chicago, followed by residency training at Mayo Clinic and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. Dr. Grande's research focuses on chronic kidney disease, with particular emphasis on hypertension, diabetes and the role of inflammation in renal injury and disease progression. His laboratory

integrates experimental and translational approaches to identify mechanisms of renal disease and develop novel therapeutic strategies, with work that has important implications for improving outcomes in patients with common causes of kidney failure. A nationally recognized educator, Dr. Grande has received numerous teaching awards, including the Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award, and has held leadership roles in medical education and national organizations, including service with the National Institutes of Health and the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



DEAN'S TEACHER AWARD

Andrea N. Leep Hunderfund, M.D., M.H.P.E.

Dr. Andrea Leep Hunderfund is a professor of neurology at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. She completed her medical degree, internal medicine internship, neurology residency and clinical neurophysiology fellowship at Mayo Clinic and earned a Master of Health Professions Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Clinically, she cares for patients and supervises residents and fellows in the electromyography lab, intraoperative neuromonitoring lab and Neurology Education Division, and leads initiatives to enhance patient and staff experience within the department. Her educational work spans directing neuroscience courses for medical and physical therapy students, along with leadership

roles at Mayo Clinic and nationally. She collaborates across teams to advance faculty development, education research, program evaluation, and curriculum and assessment initiatives. As a researcher, she examines how learning and work environments influence outcomes such as well-being, belonging, professional identity formation and high-value care. Through her clinical, educational and scholarly efforts, Dr. Leep Hunderfund is committed to supporting learners and colleagues in shaping environments that reflect Mayo Clinic values, promote holistic learning and growth, foster meaningful connections and advance person-centered care.



ARIZONA TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Natalie R. Langley, Ph.D.

Dr. Natalie Langley was born and raised in Louisiana to a family with strong Cajun roots. An early interest in science, the human body and helping others led her to study anthropology at Louisiana State University, where — as a first-generation college student — she earned both her B.A. and M.A. She went on to complete her Ph.D. in forensic anthropology at the University of Tennessee in 2009. She joined Mayo Clinic in 2016 as the anatomy course leader at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Arizona campus and later served as histology course leader. Her current roles include leading a National Institute of Justice-funded research lab, serving on the MCASOM Admissions Committee and Mayo Clinic Institutional Review Board, acting as director of Medical Education Quality and Strategy,

and serving as vice chair of the Curriculum Committee. She enjoys the creative process and working with passionate learners and colleagues. Students appreciate Dr. Langley's approachability, willingness to provide individualized support, and the care she demonstrates in ensuring every student succeeds, often going above and beyond through one-on-one sessions, extensive resources and continuous course refinement. Outside of work, Dr. Langley enjoys baking, aerial and circus arts, and spending time with her husband, Mark, and their pets.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



FLORIDA TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Stephen M. McMullan, M.D.

Dr. Stephen McMullan is a family medicine physician at Mayo Clinic in Florida whose practice emphasizes preventive care, chronic disease management and lifestyle-based approaches to health. He completed his residency and chief residency at Naval Hospital Jacksonville and brings a distinguished background in military medicine to his clinical and educational work. His approach to care emphasizes helping patients understand their conditions and make informed decisions, with a strong focus on practical, evidence-based strategies that extend beyond pharmacologic treatment. In his role as an educator, he works directly with students and trainees in clinical settings,

integrating real-world clinical teaching into everyday practice. Students comment on his clear expectations, thoughtful organization and ability to ease the transition into clinical training, noting his attention to individual interests and his efforts to make each clinical encounter meaningful and instructive. In his teaching and mentorship, Dr. McMullan creates a structured yet approachable learning experience that supports both confidence and clinical growth. He has received numerous honors for his excellence in teaching and patient care, including multiple Teacher of the Year awards and recognition for outstanding contributions within both Mayo Clinic and the U.S. Navy.



MINNESOTA TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Brendan J. Mulhern, M.D.

Dr. Brendan Mulhern is a pediatric hospitalist at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where he provides inpatient care while working closely with medical students, pediatric and family medicine residents, and pediatric hospital medicine fellows. He serves as associate program director for the Mayo Clinic pediatric residency program, leading recruitment efforts and contributing to resident education, coaching and mentorship. He received his Bachelor of Science in biology and Spanish from the University of Illinois and his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Minnesota Medical School. He completed both a pediatric residency and chief residency at the University of Colorado, where he also went on to complete a fellowship in pediatric hospital medicine and participate in the Leaders

in Informatics, Quality and Systems Program. His professional work spans medical education, quality improvement, clinical informatics and patient safety, with a focus on integrating these areas into clinical training. Learners describe Dr. Mulhern's teaching as structured and empowering, noting how he encourages active participation in patient care while providing clear, actionable feedback. They also highlight his attentiveness to individual growth and his ability to support the development of clinical judgment and confidence. His contributions have been recognized with the Teacher of the Year Award (2024-2025) from the Mayo Fellows' Association in Pediatrics and Pediatric Specialties.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



ARIZONA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Daniel L. Roberts, M.D.

Dr. Daniel Roberts is a consultant in the Division of Hospital Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and an assistant professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. He earned his undergraduate degree in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Arizona and his medical degree from Mayo Medical School (now Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine), where he also completed his internal medicine residency and served as chief resident. Over the course of his career, he has been a key contributor to medical student education, including leading curricular initiatives, chairing the Arizona Clerkship Committee and contributing to courses focused on clinical ethics

and transition to residency. Students say Dr. Roberts's instruction is characterized by a thoughtful balance of autonomy and guidance, allowing them to actively participate in patient care while receiving meaningful feedback. They are grateful for his kindness, dedication to teaching and commitment to helping medical students become better clinicians. In addition to his educational leadership, he serves as faculty advisor for the student-run Refugee Education and Clinic Team (REACT) and contributes as senior medical editor of the Mayo Clinic Health Letter, reflecting his broad commitment to education, service and communication.



FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Edson J. Mwakyanjala, M.D.

Dr. Edson Mwakyanjala is an internal medicine physician at Mayo Clinic in Florida who completed his residency training and served as chief resident within the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education. He earned his medical degree from Florida State University College of Medicine, graduating with highest honors. His clinical work is complemented by a deep investment in medical education, where he is recognized for guiding learners through complex clinical reasoning and helping them develop confidence in decision-making. Rather than relying on formulaic teaching, he emphasizes understanding, encouraging trainees to think critically and engage deeply with patient care. As a core faculty

member, he contributes to initiatives in resident-as-teacher development, morbidity and mortality education and community engagement, with additional interests in patient safety and patient education. Students and colleagues remark on Dr. Mwakyanjala's ability to simplify complicated pathophysiology into clear, practical insights while maintaining a strong sense of empathy at the bedside. His teaching has been recognized with multiple honors, including Teacher of the Year and the Golden Apple Teaching Award, underscoring the lasting influence he has had on learners across training levels.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Semirra L. Bayan, M.D.

Dr. Semirra (Sami) Bayan is an assistant professor of otolaryngology at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, specializing in laryngeal surgery. She earned her medical degree from the University of Virginia, followed by a residency at the University of Iowa and a fellowship in laryngeal surgery and voice rehabilitation at Massachusetts General Hospital. Prior to joining Mayo Clinic in 2019, she served as director of the Voice Center at the University of Chicago. She currently holds leadership roles as associate program director and department belonging leader. Dr. Bayan is deeply committed to advancing equitable patient care and medical education. She co-directs an ENT community outreach clinic in Rochester, partnering with a federally qualified

healthcare center to expand access to specialty care for underserved populations. Through this work, she founded and advises the Medical Student Community Partners program, which engages students in longitudinal patient care and care coordination. In her educational roles, she emphasizes both technical skill development and broader competencies such as communication, advocacy and equity. Students highlight the impact of her mentorship, noting the meaningful clinical experiences she creates and her emphasis on compassionate, patient-centered care. Her work has been recognized with multiple honors, including Teacher of the Year and repeated distinctions for excellence in patient experience.



ARIZONA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (RESIDENT)

Maximiliano Diaz Menendez, M.D.

Dr. Maximiliano Diaz Menendez is currently an internal medicine resident at Mayo Clinic in Arizona with a strong interest in rheumatology and medical education. He earned his medical degree from Anahuac University in Mexico, which included a year of study at Claude Bernard University in Lyon, France. He then completed a research fellowship in rheumatology at Mayo Clinic in Florida, where he published multiple first-author papers, including in *Arthritis Care & Research*, the official journal of the American College of Rheumatology. He has presented his work at numerous national and international conferences. He is an active educator and mentor, serving as an instructor of medicine and contributing to initiatives

within the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, including the Medical Spanish Distinction Track advisory board. Known by students for his approachable teaching style and commitment to learner development, he integrates clinical care with high-yield education and promotes meaningful connections with both patients and trainees. In addition to his academic work, he has a strong appreciation for the arts and has served as a physician to the National Opera of Mexico. After completing his residency, Dr. Diaz Menendez will continue his training as a rheumatology fellow at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



ARIZONA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (RESIDENT)

Hunter B. VanDolah, M.D.

Dr. Hunter VanDolah is a second-year resident physician in the Internal Medicine Program at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He graduated summa cum laude from Creighton University with a B.S. in chemistry and magna cum laude from Georgetown University School of Medicine with an M.D. During medical school, he received the Georgetown University Clinical Society Award, presented to outstanding graduates who demonstrate proficiency and excellence during their third and fourth years. He serves as the class chair for the Internal Medicine Program's Class of 2027 and on the hospital's Mortality Review Subcommittee. His research interests

include cardiovascular disease and electrophysiology. Dr. VanDolah respects that it is a privilege to care for patients in some of their most vulnerable moments and instills this same respect in his students. Students comment that his goals-of-care discussions are sincere, compassionate and impactful, providing clarity and comfort in challenging circumstances. Dr. VanDolah will serve as chief medical resident at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and plans to pursue fellowship training in cardiovascular medicine. Outside of the hospital, he enjoys golfing, running and spending time with his wife and family.



ARIZONA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (FELLOW)

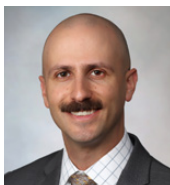
Alec M. Johnson, D.O.

Dr. Alec Johnson is a second-year fellow in infectious diseases at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He earned his medical degree from the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Western Michigan University, where he served as chief resident during his final year. He has a strong interest in medical education and has been actively involved in teaching and mentorship throughout his training. His academic focus includes advancing clinical education for trainees and contributing to the development of future physicians. Students say he exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding physician and educator through his professionalism, approachability and dedication

to patient-centered care. At Mayo Clinic, Dr. Johnson continues to pursue his interests in infectious diseases with a focus on coccidiomycosis, orthopedic infections and medical education. He is committed to improving patient care while fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment for medical students, residents and fellows.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



FLORIDA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (RESIDENT)

Shai M. Chazin, M.D.

Dr. Shai Chazin is a chief resident in general surgery at Mayo Clinic in Florida, where he will complete his training in 2026 before entering practice as a general surgeon. He earned his Bachelor of Science in psychology from the University of Minnesota and his Doctor of Medicine from Tulane University School of Medicine. In addition to his clinical work, he has contributed to surgical education through initiatives such as co-developing the “Smooth Operator” seminar, a skills course designed to strengthen early laparoscopic training through deliberate practice. His teaching is shaped by careful attention to individual learners, adapting his approach to different levels of experience while maintaining clear

expectations. Students describe his presence as steady and purposeful, noting his ability to make a demanding surgical rotation feel organized and approachable while still encouraging growth and accountability. They also highlight the respect he shows toward patients and team members, as well as his ability to challenge learners constructively without undermining confidence. Through his mentorship and example, Dr. Chazin has made a meaningful and lasting impact on those he teaches. He will complete his residency training this summer, after which he plans to enter private practice as a general surgeon.



FLORIDA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (RESIDENT)

Nihal Satyadev, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Nihal Satyadev is a neurology resident at Mayo Clinic in Florida whose work bridges clinical neuroscience, public health and artificial intelligence. A Southern California native, he founded the Youth Movement Against Alzheimer’s, which grew into the largest youth-led Alzheimer’s nonprofit in the country and was later acquired by Seth and Lauren Rogen’s Hilarity for Charity. He has served on California’s Alzheimer’s Brain Trust and the National Advisory Council for Dementia Friendly America, and authored bipartisan legislation establishing California’s first “AmeriCorps for caregiving” model, now incorporated into statewide aging priorities. He earned advanced training in public health and computer science with a focus on machine learning alongside his

medical degree. His academic work centers on rapidly progressive dementia and early diagnostic strategies, with first-author publications in leading journals, including *Neurology* and *Annals of Neurology*, as well as involvement in Mayo Clinic’s Neurology Artificial Intelligence Program. In clinical settings, he incorporates teaching directly into patient care, helping learners navigate complex neurologic concepts and develop structured clinical reasoning. He plans to pursue a career focused on dementia and stroke while leveraging emerging technologies to improve patient outcomes and public health.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



FLORIDA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (FELLOW)

Jacob R. Henderson, D.O.

Dr. Jacob (Jake) Henderson is a senior nephrology and transplant medicine fellow at Mayo Clinic in Florida. He earned his Bachelor of Science in biology from Thomas More College, where he balanced academic achievement with collegiate football, and completed his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at the Kentucky School of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating with top honors. He went on to complete internal medicine residency at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati before pursuing fellowship training at Mayo Clinic. His academic work includes leading research publications and contributing to the development of an IgA nephropathy registry aimed at identifying predictors of disease progression.

In clinical settings, he is recognized for his clear, thoughtful communication with patients and his ability to turn everyday clinical interactions into meaningful teaching moments. Students value his calm, grounded presence and his willingness to engage directly in patient discussions, helping them refine clinical reasoning while building confidence. Dr. Henderson plans to return to his hometown in Northern Kentucky following fellowship training to continue his work in kidney care. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, pickleball, shark-tooth hunting with his girlfriend, and listening to podcasts on the market and medicine.



MINNESOTA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (RESIDENT)

Erin E. Finn, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Erin Finn is a neurology resident at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, with a focus on clinical neurology, education and compassionate patient care. She earned her Bachelor of Science in biochemistry, Master of Public Health in epidemiology and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Michigan, where she was recognized with the Big Ten Medal of Honor. Throughout her training, she has remained actively involved in teaching, contributing to medical student and physician assistant education as well as curriculum development efforts. In clinical practice, she is recognized for her careful, deliberate approach and her ability to model both technical skill and empathy in patient interactions. Students describe her as a

“joy to work with” and mention that working alongside her deepens their understanding of professionalism and the importance of presence at the bedside. They also appreciate her ability to guide them through complex clinical scenarios with clarity and intention. Dr. Finn’s contributions have been recognized with multiple honors, including Resident of the Year and the Resident Educator Golden Stethoscope Award, reflecting her meaningful influence on learner development. When she’s not at work, Dr. Finn enjoys running, coffee and sunrises (especially when she can combine all three in one morning).

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



MINNESOTA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (RESIDENT)

Lemuel E. Hackshaw, M.D.

Dr. Lemuel Hackshaw is an emergency medicine chief resident at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where he balances clinical care with a strong focus on education. He earned his Bachelor of Science in biology from Oakwood University and his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, where he also pursued additional training in social determinants of health. His academic interests include procedural training, acute care education and quality improvement, and he has contributed to teaching efforts both locally and internationally through simulation-based and hands-on instruction. In the clinical environment, he is known for creating space for learners to actively participate in patient care, encouraging them to think critically

and take initiative while remaining closely supported. Students emphasize his ability to make complex cases feel approachable and his consistent investment in their progress, describing him as someone who challenges them thoughtfully while prioritizing their success. His dedication to education has been recognized with the Resident Educator Golden Stethoscope Award, reflecting the lasting impact he has had on learner confidence and development. After completing his residency, Dr. Hackshaw will join Geisinger Medical Center as an emergency medicine attending physician. Outside of the hospital, he is a husband, father, weightlifter and proud New Yorker.



MINNESOTA GOLDEN STETHOSCOPE AWARD (FELLOW)

Omar J. Haque, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Omar Haque is a hepatopancreatobiliary and abdominal transplant surgery fellow at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. He earned his Bachelor of Science with highest honors from Johns Hopkins University and his Doctor of Medicine from Mayo Medical School (now Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine), followed by general surgery residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School. During his residency training, he completed a Master of Public Health in health policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His academic work includes extensive research in transplant surgery and organ preservation, supported by national funding. In the operating room and clinical setting, he is recognized for his ability to engage learners

directly in surgical decision-making, helping them develop both technical skills and a deeper understanding of complex care. Students appreciate the energy and positivity he brings to the team, as well as his ability to make even demanding clinical environments feel engaging and collaborative. Following completion of his residency, he will join Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, where he will continue his work in complex hepatobiliary and transplant surgery. In his spare time, Dr. Haque enjoys running marathons with his wife, playing tennis, and spending time with his newborn daughter and his goldendoodle.

Awards

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine



MAYO BROTHERS AWARD

Daniel T. Secor

Daniel Secor is a graduating medical student at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He grew up in northern Illinois and served for 14 years in the United States Navy as a special operations independent duty corpsman. During his military career, he was assigned to the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion at Camp Lejeune and completed multiple deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as deployments to Jordan and Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

For his actions in combat, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart. While on active duty, he earned his Bachelor of Science in clinical health sciences from George Washington University and later matriculated to the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. Upon receiving his medical degree, Daniel will continue his training in anesthesiology at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

National, Regional and State Awards

Awards

National, Regional and State

We congratulate our graduating students on the following national, regional and state awards and honors received during their time in medical and graduate school.

SHAROON AKHTAR

Schrödinger Molecules & Models Virtual Graduate Science Fair, Selected Oral Presenter (2026)

MEGAN LANELLE ANDERSON

Foundation for Orthopedic Trauma, Grant Recipient (2024)

National Institutes of Health (NIH), T32 Musculoskeletal Research Training Program Predoctoral Fellow Award (2024-2025)

Association of Women Surgeons Annual Conference, Best Paper Award (2025)

Medical Student Orthopedic Society Symposium, Best Poster Award (2025)

SUMEDHA ATTANTI

D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, Full Tuition Scholarship (2024-2025)

Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research, Medical Student Anesthesia Research Fellowship (2024)

IGNITeMed, Travel Grant (2024)

Harry Hoffman II Humanitarian Fund, Grant Recipient (2024, 2025)

SAHEJ BAINS

SADS Foundation Courts K. Cleveland Jr. Young Investigator Awards in Cardiac Channelopathy Research, First Place Winner (2024)

Heart Rhythm Society, Young Investigator Award (2022); Women in Electrophysiology Highest Scoring Abstract Award (2022)

Cardiac Electrophysiology Society, Young Investigator Award (2022); Scientific Sessions Invited Speaker (2023)

European Heart Journal, Top 10 Papers in Arrhythmias (2025)

BENJAMIN J. BRAUNECKER

American Academy of Neurology, Student Scholarship (2025)

JARED BROOKSBY

American Academy of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology, Travel Scholarship (2022-2025)

American Association of Immunologists, Trainee Abstract Award (2024)

ADAM E. BROWN

ElevateMeD, Scholar (2025)

Association of American Medical Colleges MedBiquitous Data Governance Cyber Working Group, Student Scholar (2026)

LAURA NERINGA BUDVYTYTE

American Society of Clinical Pathology, Medical Student Genomics Workshop Travel Award (2024)

Abrazo Health Arizona Research Day, Best Research Poster Award (2024)

College of American Pathologists, Distinguished Medical Student (2025)

Association for Academic Pathology, The Society of '67 Kinney Scholar (2025)

XINDI (CECE) CHEN

Southern Association for Vascular Surgery, Travel Scholarship (2024)

American Association for Thoracic Surgery, Summer Intern Scholarship (2024); Member for a Day Scholarship (2025)

Florida Vascular Society, Mark L. Friedell MD Award for Best Medical Student Presentation (2025)

JUSTIN JAEMIN CHOE

NIH, Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (2021-2025)

Midwest Islet Club Annual Meeting, Best Speaker (2024)

American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, Past President's Circle Fund Award Winner (2026)

SHAWNA A. COOPER

Scientific Innovation Through Diverse Perspectives Conference, Exceptional Poster Presentation (2020)

Keystone Single Cell Symposia, Under-Represented Trainee Scholarship (2021)

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Multidisciplinary Predoctoral Training Program in Discovery and Translational Research T32 Predoctoral Fellow (2022-2025)

Awards

National, Regional and State

THOMAS EKSTROM

European Pancreatic Club, Invited Speaker (2023)
German Pancreatic Cancer Conference, Best Poster (2024); Invited Speaker (2025)
International Symposium on Medical Epigenetics, Invited Speaker (2024)
Mildred Scheel Cancer Conference, Best Poster (2025)
EUOPEN Consortium Meeting, Invited Speaker (2025)

NATALIE MARIA ELLIOTT

American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy Annual Meeting, Meritorious Abstract Travel Award (2024, 2025)

CATALINA GALVAN

Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society, Member (2025-2026)

ANJIE GE

Zumbro Valley Medical Society, Outstanding Young Leader Award (2022)
City of Rochester, Garden Grant Recipient (2024)

DIEGO ALAN GOMEZ

American Society of Plastic Surgeons "Plastic Surgery: The Meeting," Best Abstract Presentation (2024)
Mount Sinai Medical School, Visiting Clerkship Program Scholarship (2025)
American Council of Educators in Plastic Surgery, Plastic Surgery Research, Education, and Preparation Scholarship (2025)

DESTINY L. GREEN

Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund Fellowship, Recipient (2022)
Thomas M. and Edna T. Gattle Foundation, Research Scholarship (2023)
National Medical Fellowships Inc., Diverse Medical Scholars Grant (2023)
Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation, Summer Research Grant (2023)
Harvard Medical School, Visiting Research Internship Scholarship (2023); Visiting Clerkship Travel Scholarship (2025)

NIH, Diversity Supplement Research Award (2024)

ETH Zurich MultiScale Robotics Lab, Summer Research Fellowship (2025)

Harvard Medical School New England Science Symposium, American Cancer Society Research Award (2025); Ruth and William Silen Best Poster Presentation Award (2025)

VICTORIA HEIGH

American Society of Hematology, Inclusion Pathway Award (2024-2025)

STEPHANIE ROCIO HERNANDEZ

Latino Medical Student Association, Outstanding Senior Award (2026)

JORDAN ALEX HOLTHE

Zumbro Valley Medical Society, Outstanding Young Leader (2023)
Midwest Cardiovascular Forum, Best Poster (2025)

HUAIZHI HUANG

American Association for Cancer Research Special Conference, Poster Award (2022); Invited Speaker (2023)
International Symposium on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Invited Speaker (2023)
The Foundation for Women's Wellness, Gottfried Family Women's Health Fellowship Award (2024)
American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting, Reviewers' Choice Abstract (2024)
Annual Mutational Scanning Symposium, Invited Speaker (2024); Travel Award (2024)
San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, Invited Speaker (2025); Basic Science Scholars Award (2025)

MICHELLE ALEXANDRIA HSU

NIH, Ruth L. Kirschstein T32 Institutional National Research Service Award (2023-2025)
American Association of Immunologists, Trainee Abstract Award (2025)

RITA IGWILO-ALANEME

Infectious Diseases Society of America, Trainee Award (2024, 2025)

Awards

National, Regional and State

VIVIAN CHINONYEREM ILOABUCHI

Association of Black Cardiologists, Biosense Webster Scholarship for Medical Students (2022)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation, Graduate Merit Scholarship (2023)

American Academy of Dermatology, Good Skin Knowledge Grant (2024)

Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance, Travel Grant (2024)

Skin of Color Society, Dermatologists of Tomorrow Scholarship (2025); Observership Grant Award (2025)

NADIA SMIYA ISLAM

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist District VIII and IX Annual Conference, Travel Award (2024-2025)

Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Conference, Meritorious Oral Presentation Scholarship (2025)

BOYOUNG MICHELLE KIM

Zumbro Valley Medical Society, Outstanding Young Leader Award (2023)

CATHERINE G. (KIT) KNIER

Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society, Member (2017-2026)

American Association for the Advancement of Science-Science, Program for Excellence in Science Awardee (2018)

American Physician Scientists Association, Travel Award (2019)

Integrated Science Education Outreach Program, Indigo Warrior Award (2022)

American College of Physicians Minnesota Chapter Annual Abstract Competition, Medical Student Clinical Vignette Finalist (2024)

NOAH ANDERSON LEE

Minnesota Psychiatric Society Spring Meeting, Second Place Poster Award (2023)

JAIDA LUE

American Association for Cancer Research, Scholar-in-Training Award (2025)

ZHIMING MAO

American Association of Immunologists, Trainee Poster Award (2023); Trainee Abstract Award (2025)

REBECCA MCEVOY

Society for Obstetric Anesthesiology and Perinatology, Best Case Report Award (2025)

ERIN B. MCGLINCH

Ari Orthopaedics, Oral Presentation Third Place (2023)

International Combined Orthopedic Research Societies, Best Poster (2023)

OrthoRegeneration Network Foundation, Travel Award (2025)

SIERRA NICOLE MURPHY

The White Coat Investor (WCI), WCI Scholarship (2021)

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, O'Connor Fellow (2022-2024); Lisa Foundation Advanced Patent Scholarship (2023-2024)

American College of Legal Medicine, Basanta Poster Award (2023)

JUSTIN MYRAH

Minnesota Psychiatric Society, Gloria Seagal Award (2026)

EWOMA OGBAUDU

Stanford Graduate School of Business, Emerson Collective Scholar (2023-2025); BOLD Fellow (2023-2025); Impact Small Grant (2024); Global Study Trip Leadership Recognition (2025)

ElevateMeD Scholar (2023)

United States Public Health Service, Excellence in Public Health Award (2022)

Alpha Omega Alpha, Medical Student Service Leadership Award and Grant (2022)

American Medical Association, Health Systems Science Impact Challenge Honorable Mention (2022)

Aspen Institute, Spotlight Health Fellow (2022)

Student National Medical Association, Wilbert C. Jordan Award for Health Policy and Advocacy (2022)

ANDREW D. PUMFORD

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, Best Poster Award (2024); Top 100 Abstract (2024)

North American Spine Society, Best Paper (2024)

Spine Summit, Albert Scholar Award (2024)

BENJAMIN ELIOT RABICHOW

International Research Conference in Neurodegenerative Diseases, Young Investigator Award (2023)

MEGAN LEA RITTING

National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the NIH, MPET T32 Predoctoral Training Grant (2022-2023)

Minnesota Organoid Symposium, Best Poster Award (2025)

Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus, Invited Speaker (2025); Best Flash Talk Award (2025)

MARIAH LYNN SCHROEDER

Association of Pathology Chairs, 2024 Society of '67 Kinney Scholar (2024)

United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Medical Student Genomics Workshop Scholarship (2025)

College of American Pathologists, Distinguished Medical Student Award (2026)

MIRA SHOUKRY

Women in Ophthalmology, Top Poster (2024)

ROMA SONIK

Kern National Network, *Becoming* series, Invited Speaker (2023)

Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, Student in Medicine Program Scholar (2023)

Minnesota Medical Association Empowering Physicians Conference, Best Poster Award (2024)

JESSICA TRINH

NIH, *All of Us* Research Program Scholar (2021-2022); Minority Student Research Symposium People's Choice Award (2022)

National Medical Fellowships, Health Excellence Leadership Program (2022-2025); Hugh J. Andersen Memorial Scholarship (2022)

Robert A. Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials Awards Program, Robert A. Winn Clinical Investigator Pathway Program Fellowship (2023)

Zumbro Valley Medical Society, Young Leader Award (2023)

Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association National Conference, Diversity Travel Grant (2023)

VitreoRetinal Surgery Foundation, Research Award (2024)

ANHMAI THI VU

National Consortium of Breast Centers 33rd Interdisciplinary Breast Cancer Conference, Top 15 Best Scored Abstract (2024)

PATRICK M. WIERUSZEWSKI

Minnesota Perfusion Society Annual Meeting, Invited Speaker (2023)

Society of Critical Care Medicine, Invited Speaker (2023-2025); Best of Congress Platform Presentation (2024); Golden Snapshot Award (2025)

Society of Thoracic Surgeons Annual Meeting, Invited Speaker (2024)

Baylor College of Medicine Advances in Critical Care, Invited Speaker (2024)

Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists, #1 Outstanding Resident Research Award (2024)

ZOLL Foundation, Grant Recipient (2025)

International Pan Arab Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual Meeting, Invited Speaker (2025)

Extracorporeal Life Support Organization Annual Meeting, Invited Speaker (2025)

American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting, Invited Speaker (2025)

EMMA WILLCOCKS

U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee, Excellence in Public Health Award (2026)

BENJAMIN G. WOOD

Acoustical Society of America Spring Meeting, Best Student Poster Award (2025)

United States National Utility Patent #12,478,347, *Non-Metallic Ultrasound-Detectable Markers* (2025)

EILENE D. YANG

Paster Family Foundation, Midwest Physician Writers Scholarship (2026)

KUN YUN

American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, Abstract Achievement Award (2024)

American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy Annual Meeting, Meritorious Abstract Travel Award (2024)

Center for Childhood Cancer Research Recruitment Summit for Postdoctoral Scholars in Oncology, Selection Award (2024)

Physician's Pledge

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

TO PATIENTS, COLLEAGUES AND SOCIETY

In the tradition of Hippocrates and the physicians who have come before me, I make the following pledge:

The needs of my patients come first. I will be a partner to improve the quality of their life through good health. I will not discriminate. I will protect the vulnerable and above all, I will do no harm.

It is my duty to care for the individual and the community. I will work to prevent disease and assure access to care for all who are in need.

The practice of medicine is both art and science. The wisdom of my patients and colleagues will guide me in the art. I will improve medicine through science and by increasing my knowledge and skills throughout my career.

I believe in the tradition that care is best delivered by health professionals working together in the best interest of the patient.

I will honor my teachers by freely sharing my knowledge and skill with patients, colleagues and successors.

My profession is an honored one, and I will not violate the trust society has placed in me. I will provide care that is ethical, moral and just and expect the same from my colleagues. I will be humble.

In the presence of my teachers, my family, my class and my friends, I make these promises solemnly and freely.

Adapted from the Hippocratic Oath by the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine Class of 2004

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Congratulations from the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association

The officers and Board of Directors of the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association welcome you as the newest members of the alumni association. The association's mission, "Connecting our alumni and bringing Mayo Clinic values to the world," is central to our purpose, nurturing mutually beneficial relationships between Mayo Clinic and the remarkable individuals who participate in its education programs. Formed in 1915 by alumni who wished to maintain scientific and social contacts with the people and programs of Mayo Clinic, you now join the ranks of esteemed Mayo Clinic alumni and alumnae. Your colleagues can be found in more than 80 countries, on the faculty of the world's leading medical schools and in leadership positions of national and international scientific organizations. We are proud to count you among our respected colleagues.

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